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[JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT.]

## REVIEWS.

*Rolls and Records of the Court held before the King's Justiciars or Justices.* Vol. I. From the Sixth year of King Richard I. to the Accession of King John. Edited by Sir Francis Palgrave.

We hasten to introduce to the notice of our readers another valuable work, now on the eve of publication by the Record Commission, and which has been edited by Sir Francis Palgrave, to whose admirable Introduction we shall now direct our attention. To the great historical importance of these publications, we have heretofore borne testimony; and when we state that the present work contains the minutes of "the earliest consecutive judicial records now existing,"† and that not merely in England, but in Europe, we are sure that this volume, in point of antiquarian interest alone, will not fall below any of its predecessors. These 'Rolls and Records of the King's Court,' however, advance claims to our attention far beyond those which give value to documents merely of high antiquity, for they bring before us appeals on almost every subject, for which the protection of the king, or the penalties of the law, could be sought, and, consequently, throw great light upon the general state of society at this early period; light, with regard to many points relating to the middle and lower classes, which we may seek for in vain elsewhere. These records also present a curious picture of the contests between the two justiciars, Hugh Pudsey and William de Longchamp,—of the bitter feuds which raged between the secular clergy and the Benedictines,—of the proceedings which ended in the deposition of Longchamp, and many characteristic traits both of the public men of that period, and of general society.

One of the first subjects of importance recorded here, is the appeal of treason, brought by William Fitz Osbert against Richard, his brother; and his testimony affords an amusing proof, that in spite of the supposed crushing influence of Norman domination, the Londoners exercised the right of free speech in no limited degree.

"It appears by the entries upon the Roll, that on the Morrow of St. Edmund, in the sixth year of Ric. I., William Fitz Osbert preferred his appeal before the Justices at Westminster against Richard Fitz Osbert, his brother. Speaking as a witness—for every Appellant supported his complaint by his own positive testimony—he affirmed that a meeting was held in the 'stone house' of the said Richard, when a discussion arose concerning the aids granted to the King for his ransom. Richard Fitz Osbert exclaimed, 'In recompense for the money taken from me by the Chancellor within the Tower of London, I would lay out forty marks to purchase a chain in which the King and his Chancellor might be hanged.'—There were others present

who heard this speech, Jordan the Tanner and Robert Brand, without doubt the two true men noticed, but not named, by Ralph de Diceto, whose brief account of the transaction agrees, so far as it extends, with the record. And they also vied with Richard Fitz Osbert in his disloyalty. 'Would that the King might always remain where he now is,' quoth Jordan. In this wish Robert Brand cordially agreed.—And,—"Come what will,"—they all exclaimed,—in London we never will have any other King except our Mayor;—Henry Fitz Ailwin of London Stone."

Foiled, however, as an informer, Fitz Osbert took up the calling of a patriot; he cultivated a fascinating length of beard, (as is not improbably supposed to mark his admiration of all Saxon usages,) and by the more homely title of "*Wylyam-wythe-the longe-bearde*," stands eminent among city demagogues. His earlier course in this line was most prosperous; fifty two thousand citizens of the lower order having, according to Neuburgensis, been enrolled as his adherents. But the usual changeful fortune of popular idols befell him: his adherents, on approach of danger, deserted him; he was obliged to seek refuge in the tower of Bow church, from whence he was dragged forth and hanged in chains.

That portion of Fitz Osbert's appeal which respects the mayor, is, as Sir Francis Palgrave remarks, worthy of notice, since the charter of the 16th of John, empowering the citizens to elect a mayor, "has been considered as creating that office. But from the rolls we ascertain that, as is very commonly the case, the charter purporting to confirm a new privilege, is really the confirmation of an existing right." And thus we find in these records another proof of the general correctness of local tradition. Stow, from this source of tradition, asserts, that Henry Fitz Aylwin was chosen mayor in 1189. Now, a few years earlier than this date, London certainly possessed no municipal officer of that superior character, since, not merely is there no mention whatever made of a mayor in the minute accounts of the conduct of the citizens during the wars of Stephen and Maude, but Fitz Steven, in his curious laudatory description of London, supposed to have been written about 1170 or 80, (he died in 1191,) certainly knew not the existence of any such office, for he tells us in a parallel between Rome and London, which, we think, will remind the reader of Fluellin's celebrated comparison of Monmouth and Macedon, that being "*more ancient than Rome*, London uses the same ancient laws, and common institutions—for this city, like that, hath wards; sheriffs too, answering in dignity to its consuls, aldermen enjoying the high station of senators, besides inferior magistrates." Surely, had London been then governed by a mayor, he would more suitably have represented the consular dignity. We have thus nearly contemporary evidence as to the general correctness of Stow's assertion; and, taking 1189 for the date of Fitz

Aylwin's advancement to this new honour, we shall find that he had held the rule of the city through five years of much disorder, and heavy taxation, a period sufficiently long to endear him to his fellow citizens, when they declared that they wished for no other king than their Saxon Lord Mayor. But we think we can yet farther show, that 1189 was the very year of his election. From some other incidental notices of London in this volume, we find that this, the chief city, actually on some occasions seems to have been an "*imperium in imperio*," for, Sir F. Palgrave remarks, "the people of London were more thoroughly an Anglo-Saxon community than any other, and were probably never merged in any other kingdom;" thus "London was so much a distinct state, that proclamation of the king's peace in London did not extend to the rest of the kingdom."

"And this explains an expression occasionally employed concerning the commencements of the reigns of the ancient Kings, namely, that they are computed *secundum usum Scaccarii*, implying that there might be another usage elsewhere. According to our present practice, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London are invariably parties to the proclamation of a new King, being always required to concur in signing the act of recognition. And we may perhaps venture to conjecture that this custom was originally introduced for the purpose of consolidating the two recognitions, so as to have but one date of accession, for the City and for the Kingdom at large."

From some other extracts, too, we find that the legal axiom, so important to the peace of the state, "that the king never dies," was not recognized by our forefathers, even towards the close of the thirteenth century. When Henry III. lay on his death bed, the popular party in London "proposed that as soon as he should expire, they would rise against the aldermen and plunder them," considering that this might be done with impunity "while the nation was without a king"; and this was only prevented by the king's chief officers, immediately upon his death, coming into the city to proclaim the peace of the "*lord Edward toward both Jew and Christian*," for "the king might be admitted as *Dominus Angliæ*, before he was acknowledged *Rex Anglorum*."

Now, in regard to the precise date of Fitz Aylwin's mayoralty, Plantagenet died in 1189 at Chinon, on the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul, according to Hoveden, and a full month, at least, elapsed ere Richard returned to England. How likely was it, therefore, that during that interval, and before his "peace" was proclaimed, the citizens of London, so warmly attached to Saxon usages, and believing themselves to be in great measure an independent state, should seize this opportunity of electing a municipal king, in the person of "Henry, the son of Aylwin, the draper, at London Stone."

It has been questioned whether the express assertion of Matthew Paris, that the higher order of citizens ranked as barons,

† The most ancient continental archives, Sir F. Palgrave informs us, are what are termed the "*Olim*" registers of the Parliaments of Paris. They commence sixty years later than these.

was not a mere empty boast. Now, in this volume, we have a fac-simile of Fitz Aylwin's seal, and although half obliterated, we can easily distinguish him seated on horseback, just as the contemporary Earls of Chester are represented on their seals, but bearing, in addition, a falcon, that bird appropriated alone to men of "gentle birth," on his right hand. "Such tokens of station," says the editor, "were not assumed without due warrant." Remarks like the foregoing may seem, perhaps, to some of our readers as little more than laborious trifling, but those who have at all made our metropolitan antiquities their study, will be well aware of the importance of testing the accuracy of a writer, on whom we are dependent for so many statements connected with the history of London.

In regard to the formalities observed, and the phraseology adopted, in designating the monarch previously to his coronation, there is much minute information. *Cœur de Lion* died in April, and, from a careful examination of every statement relative to his death, Sir F. Palgrave discovers that neither date, nor name of place, nor even the name of the arblaster who impelled the fatal bolt, can be decided with any degree of certainty. It seems most probable that his death was the result of conspiracy, since this would account for the prophetic ballad that told how the bolt "was making in the Limousin, that should carry off the tyrant," for the rumour in England on Easter eve, that King Richard was dead, although it is questionable whether, though wounded, he had yet expired,—of the tale that the arrow-head was marked by the smith with a cross, because from the repeated greetings of "God speed you," from the passers by, he judged that it would be used for an especial purpose,—above all, the absence of any official notification of his death, and the circumstance of more than three weeks elapsing ere the "vacancy of the throne was authoritatively acknowledged," all seem to prove that whatever doubts and discrepancies of statements there might be in England, respecting *Cœur de Lion's* death, much more was known to his followers than they thought proper to divulge. In the roll dated May 2nd, 1199, there is no recognition of Richard's death—

"And in fact we have evidence, nearly conclusive, to the contrary, for a day of appearance is given in a plea between the Prior of Durham, and the Abbot of Melsa, the Prior of Newburgh, and others, who had proceeded in a suit (probably in Court Christian) concerning an advowson, against the King's writ or command, 'contra preceptum Domini Regis,' which would not have been the usual style if speaking of a deceased Monarch. Are we to suppose that the intelligence had not yet reached England:—or that it had not arrived in so authentic a form as to warrant the Justices in proclaiming the event, which had already been more than once bruited, without any foundation excepting the wishes of those by whom it was desired:—or did the Justiciars purposely delay notifying that the inheritance was open, the better to secure the succession of the new Monarch?

"The next or seventh membrane, has no heading or title either of date or reign. Here, we have an unquestionable proof that Richard's death was known to the Court. Robert Bertram casts his *essoin* 'de ultra mare de servicio Domini Ducis,' shewing that the entry was made after the inauguration of John as Duke of Nor-

mandy, and before his Coronation as King of England. \* \* \*

"The pleadings begin confusedly at the twelfth membrane of the Roll, and without any heading or title, or any date of day, term, or reign, but the first entries were clearly made before John's Coronation. Hillary de Rachenton has a day given to him on the Morrow of the Trinity, because he is in the Duke's Castle at Porchester. The assize of Novel Disseisin between Osbert Gifford, demandant, and Ralph de Wellinton, deforciant, is respited until the Octaves of the Trinity by the precept of Geoffry Fitz Peter, because Osbert is in the service of John, Lord of England, with horses and arms. \* \* \*

"The first plea roll which is dated, is of the Morrow of the Holy Trinity, on the twenty-first membrane; and from this place the entries proceed regularly, denominating the Sovereign as the King."

We must not pass over the next paragraph:—

"It will have been observed how carefully and consistently the Chroniclers, whose language I transcribe, as well as the judicial records, abstain from bestowing the title of King upon John, until his Coronation. From that day his reign was reckoned, varying, however, in each year according to the moveable feast, which was taken as the anniversary; that is to say, the reign was calculated from Ascension day to Ascension day in each year, and not from day to the twenty-sixth day of May. \* \* \* Our modern historians and chronologers were accustomed to reckon the reign of John from the day of the death of his predecessor, so that all the instruments of his reign, dated between the sixth April and the Ascension day of the current year, have been transposed. Hume generally bestows a title upon John which never did or could belong to him, namely, that of 'Prince.' Had the original authorities been consulted and studied by this able writer, it is probable that his shrewdness might have enabled him to detect the error. But Hume's narrative of the earlier periods,—for to this portion only I limit my present observations,—frequently inaccurate, and always vague and superficial, labours under defects which no system of annotation can correct or remove."

The succeeding paragraph, too, is interesting, for it seems to determine the point, that the popular recognition was the basis of the kingly power:—

"The maxim of the French law, '*le mort saisit le vif*,' and which we have adopted as a constitutional principle, was unknown to the English in the earlier periods of our history. The death of the father did not vest the royal title as an inheritance in the son: and some further act was required before the style of King could be assumed. The rule of succession in the same blood or family, prevailed before the right of primogeniture was established as an indefeasible canon. Hence, until the Atheling was accepted by the 'land-folk' or consecrated by the Priest,—and I here purposely avoid entering upon the difficult question, whether the popular acclamation or the sacerdotal ceremonial had the greater or the lesser constitutional efficacy,—no heir presumptive could be considered as King or Emperor, Bretwald or Basileus, in Anglo-Saxon Britain. After the Conquest, it is probable, for we can only speak doubtfully and hypothetically, that the heir obtained the Royal authority, at least for the purposes of administering the law, from the day that his *præce* was proclaimed. He was obeyed as Chief Magistrate, so soon as he was admitted to the high office of protector of the public tranquillity. But he was not honoured as the King, until the sacred oil had been poured upon him, and the crown set upon his head, and the sceptre grasped in his hand."

A few incidental notices in this Introduction are also highly interesting. The following is singular:—

"In several Townships, the juries present the names of parties who were found dead in the fields, having been starved by cold or hunger, or otherwise killed by accident, no one being suspected as having caused such death by violence. In all these cases, the judgment is 'murder,' followed, as is well known, by a fine. Instead of considering the responsibility of the Hundred as merely resulting from the laws made for the security of the Norman or the Dane,—though without doubt this object may have been one of the purposes for which the *murdrum* was enforced,—the liability was founded upon a very comprehensive view of police. Since the Hundred was thus subjected to a mulct, if the man died for want of the necessities of life, may it not be inferred that the inhabitants were bound to provide those necessities—food and raiment: and that, consequently, the principle of a legal provision for the poor was recognized by the common law?"

This, also, as well as affording some farther information on the origin of surnames, adds another contradiction to the foolish notion that under the Norman rule the Saxon language was wholly proscribed.

"Amidst the dry technicality of the record, we may discover various particulars elucidating the state and condition of society. A female, the wife of William le Parmenter, of Westminster, is designated in the same pleadings as *Snow-white* or *Snow-hilda*, and also as *Swan-hilda*. Both these names are evidently epithets, derived from the beauty of her complexion, and equivalent to each other. And they also show how purely the common people were still Anglo-Saxons in language and mode of thought: for the expressions thus employed have all the spirit and the form of the poetry of their remote Northern ancestors. But with respect to the upper classes, and those immediately connected with them, we may equally discern the influence of the foreign tongue in other names, no less significant. *Trenchant*, who appears in court as the Esconator of William de Sisiverne, was evidently a messenger distinguished by his swiftness of foot. And the name of Alan *Trenchemer*, Richard's Sea Admiral, indicates his profession and his skill."

The subjoined anecdote of John, some years previously to his accession, affords a striking proof of his singular talent in the science of "ways and means."

"Of John's exertions on behalf of Longchamp, one example is narrated with amusing particularity. A Council or, as we should call it, a Parliament, being assembled at London, the messenger of Longchamp, Legate and Chancellor, suddenly entered, announcing the arrival of his master at Dover. Alarmed at such intelligence, they forthwith sent to Earl John, who is at Wallingford. Another Council is held. In this, John informs them that Longchamp defies them all, provided he can obtain his, John's protection, for which he offers seven hundred pounds, to be paid within a week. 'I am in want of money,'—continued Earl John,—'a word to the wise is enough.' And having thus spoken, he departed, leaving them to consider this pithy monition. Anxious to prevent the return of their hated enemy, they agreed to buy John off, by lending him five hundred pounds from the King's treasury. The Earl forthwith withdrew his proposition in favour of Longchamp. Eleanor equally abandoned the late Justiciar's cause: and letters were addressed to him in the name of the Queen, the Clergy, and the people, insisting upon his immediate departure from the Realm."

We now close this valuable and interest-

ing 'Introduction,' thanking Sir F. Palgrave for the information he has collected, and expressing our high expectation of the forthcoming volume; nor can we better close these our desultory remarks than by transcribing the following passage:—

"Beginning with Glanville;—continuing our inquiries upon the Rolls, existing from the reign of John in regular succession;—comparing these records with the commentary furnished by the Year Books;—and lastly, opening the Volumes of the Reporters, properly so called: we could—if human life were adequate to such a task—exhibit what the world cannot elsewhere show, the judicial system of a great and powerful nation, running parallel in development with the social advancement of the people whom that system ruled. In the history of the English Constitution, our legal records are amongst the most important elements. The law restrained the Sovereign before he was controlled by his Great Council. And the most important functions antiently exercised by the High Court of Parliament, arose from the dispensation of justice, exercised in ordinary cases by the Judges to whom the King delegated his authority and power.

"But the interest of these legal records is not local, or peculiarly appertaining unto this our country. They are the property, not merely of England, but of the English people, wheresoever settled or dispersed. We have here the germ and foundation of the laws obtaining in those States, which, rising beyond the ocean, seem appointed to preserve the language and the institutions of England beneath other skies, when the empire of the parent commonwealth shall have passed away like a dream."

*The Mardens, and the Daventrys.* Tales by the Author of 'Traits and Traditions of Portugal.' 3 vols. London: Saunders & Odey.

We have here a story of the times we live in, and a legend of the past:—the first of the tales, 'The Mardens,' treats of modern life, but its interest lies rather in strong passion and incident, than in the tracing of those delicate lights and shades, which make up the sum total of our every-day existence. At its close is introduced a remarkable scene, mentioned as one of actual occurrence in a recent number of one of the periodicals, where a gentleman, accused of having poisoned a guest while under his roof, was put on his trial, and all but acquitted, when, in his anxiety to clear his character thoroughly, he summoned his housekeeper, and was, on her testimony, convicted of the crime.

'The Daventrys' is a romance of older date; going so far back as the picturesque days of the Crusades, and the times when the unfortunate Jews were the objects of savage and unjust persecution. There was some hazard in creating a second beautiful Jewess, and making her (like the magnificent Rebecca) the daughter of an usurer: but Miriam is a sweet character, and by no means a copy of the "daughter of Isaac, the son of Adonikam." Perhaps the phraseology of this story is of too studied an antiquity, but it is, in many parts, eloquent and poetical, and the tale excites a strong interest; it turns upon one, who, urged by long-hoarded revenge, sought to overthrow a noble house, and endeavoured to bring the suspicion of the Church upon its members, as having tampered with heresy, in protecting the beautiful Miriam in her distress: the plot has other turnings

and windings, which our readers must unfold for themselves; and it is powerfully closed with some terrible scenes at York (alas! falling short of the naked horrors of the reality), in which city a colony of ill-fated Jews were besieged, and burnt in a tower, whither they had fled for refuge. They were pressed by famine—madness seized some of their chief men—and the following striking extract, though only a fragment, will give some idea of the scene whence it is drawn:

"Have I raved?" asked the Rabbi in a shrill and fearful whisper; "Hath the hollowness of hunger crept into my brain?—Have I stood before the remnant of the tribes, a drivelling idiot? Ye gaze upon each other as who shall say, 'How shall we answer him?'—I ask no more of ye—in your silence I am answered."

"Father—dear father!" murmured the voice of Sara, as she pressed her lips to the hand which had now fallen powerless at his side.

"True!" said the miserable man; "the voice of the innocent one hath recalled me to my purpose—I am not mad now—Mark me, men of Israel, I am not mad when I show you how to save your dear ones from the destruction that is worse than death."

"As he spoke, he plunged his hand deep amid the folds of his robe, and drew it forth again, clutching a slender poignard.

"Thou wouldst not slay the child?" cried the horror-struck Jesse, raising himself on his elbow, and grasping the armed hand, as a groan burst from the crowd.

"And wherefore not?" asked the Rabbi in an accent of calm despair; "If I withhold the blow, canst thou save her?"

"Alas! no—" murmured the Warder, sinking back to his original position.

"There was a deep hush; men looked not upon each other, but forward—forward—to where the fair child stood passively in the grasp of her half-maniac father; while women gasped out their breath, and children clung closer to each other. Meanwhile, Ben Israel bent down over his daughter—he smoothed back her clinging hair—he looked into her dim eyes—he clasped within his own the long and wasted fingers—and now both her small hands were in his own—in his left hand—and he drew her close to him—closer—one sob of his pent-up breath escaped him in that moment, and but one—ere another respiration heaved his chest, he struck!—He let the fingers he had clasped escape his hold, and with a slight spasm and without a cry, his child fell back with the smile which his last fondness had called to her young lip—a corpse!"

It is our opinion, that Miss Pardoe has displayed in these tales far more power than she has hitherto shown in fiction: there is much of good performance, and more of excellent promise, in these volumes.

*Scottish Biographical Dictionary.* By Robert Chambers. Vol. IV. Glasgow: Blackie & Son.

If we sit down gay to the perusal of biography, we are sure to rise sad. It is a record of high hopes, noble aspirations, and glorious achievements, accomplished in pain, accompanied by envy, and rewarded by ingratitude. The soldier, on some bloody and perilous field, saves his country, and is banished like a Greek, or pelted and hissed like a Briton; a statesman takes the helm of the public vessel, when beset with dangers, and guides her through thick storm and tempest to a secure haven, and—lives in the hope of being forgiven; while a man of genius

perishes from neglect, like Burns, or through banishment, like Byron—his sole reward for having diffused happiness through ten thousand thousand bosoms. Genius, indeed, is sorely bested in this world of ours. No sooner has a man struggled through the slough of despond, which lies in the path of fame, and set his foot on the ascent, than he is assailed by the envious, the malicious, and the disappointed; all the duller spirits—the leaden-headed and the millstone-footed, not a few of whom on our planet do crawl—follow him, though at a distance, in full chorus, and persist in knowing him for nothing save his defects. This applies to the biography of all nations, and is not peculiar to that of Scotland; indeed, if Mr. Chambers be an accurate author, we are bound to conclude that merit is less liable to be maligned in the north than elsewhere: we of the south may, however, attribute this less to superior virtue, than to intense nationality; we have specimens of both in the work before us.

The 'Scottish Biographical Dictionary' is a work of great merit: it is to the credit of the author, that the newest memoirs, with some few exceptions, are the best. He has, it is true, admitted names of doubtful importance; and, what is surprising, has omitted one, at least, of unquestioned reputation: we look in vain for Alexander Scot, a lyric poet of high excellence. The worst fault of the work is its inequality; but this is more than compensated by the spirit of many of the narratives, and the value and variety of the new intelligence. As an example of the latter, we have no hesitation in quoting the account which Robert Watt, author of the 'Bibliotheca Britannica,' has left us of his early studies, and the difficulties which he surmounted: in it we may read the history of many of his most distinguished countrymen.

"Among the first things I remember very distinctly was being sent to school, about the age, I suppose, of five or six. I was only a short time with my first teacher, and remember little of what was done. With two or three masters, I learned to read English, write, and count. At this time I recollect being rather a favourite with the teacher, and suffering from the envy of my schoolfellows on that account. From the difficulty I had to encounter in every branch of learning afterwards, I think my proficiency at that time must have been very small.

"About the age of thirteen, I became a plough-boy to a farmer in a neighbouring parish. After this, I was sometimes at home, and sometimes in the service of other people, till the age of seventeen. Before this age, I had begun to acquire a taste for reading, and spent a good deal of my time in that way. The books I read were such as I found about my father's house; among which I remember the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' 'The Lives of Scotch Worthies,' &c. A spirit for extending my knowledge of the country, and other things, had manifested itself early, in various forms. When very young, my great ambition was to be a chapman; and it was long before the sneers of my friends could drive me from this favourite project. It was the same spirit, and a wish of doing something for myself, that made me go into the service of other farmers. I saw more than I did at home, and I got money which I could call my own. My father's circumstances were very limited; but they were equal, with his own industry, to the bringing up of his family, and putting them to trades. This was his great wish. I remember he preferred a trade greatly to being farmer's servants.



"With a view to extend my knowledge of the country, I went with a party into Galloway, to build stone dykes. On getting there, however, the job which we had expected was abandoned, on account of some difference taking place between the proprietor of the land and the cultivator; and we went to the neighbourhood of Dumfries, where our employer had a contract for making part of the line of road from Sanquhar to Dumfries. During my short stay in Galloway, which was at Loch Fergus, in the vicinity of Kirkcudbright, I lodged in a house where I had an opportunity of reading some books, and saw occasionally a newspaper. This enlarged my views, increased the desire to see and learn more, and made me regret exceedingly my short stay in the place.

"On our arrival at Dumfries, we were boarded on the farm of Ellisland, in the possession of Robert Burns. The old house which he and his family had recently occupied became our temporary abode. This was only for a few days. I was lodged, for the rest of the summer, in a sort of old castle, called the *Ile*, from its having been at one time surrounded by the Nith. While at Ellisland, I formed the project of going up to England. This was to be accomplished by engaging as a drover of some of the droves of cattle that continually pass that way from Ireland and Scotland. My companions, however, disapproved of the project, and I gave it up.

"During the summer I spent in Dumfries-shire, I had frequent opportunities of seeing Burns; but cannot recollect of having formed any opinion of him, except a confused idea that he was an extraordinary character. While here, I read Burns's Poems; and, from an acquaintance with some of his relations, I occasionally got from his library a reading of other works of the same kind. With these I used to retire into some of the concealed places on the banks of the Nith, and pass my leisure hours in reading, and occasionally tried my hand in writing rhymes myself. My business at this time consisted chiefly in driving stones, from a distance of two or three miles, to build bridges and sewers. This occupation gave me a further opportunity of perusing books, and although, from the desultory nature of my reading, I made no proficiency in any one thing, I acquired a sort of smattering knowledge of many, and a desire to learn more. From this period, indeed, I date the commencement of my literary pursuits.

"On my return home, the first use I made of the money I had saved was to purchase a copy of Bailey's Dictionary, and a copy of Burn's English Grammar. With these I began to instruct myself in the principles of the English language, in the best way I could.

"At this time, my brother John, who had been in Glasgow for several years, following the business of a joiner and cabinet-maker, came home, with the design of beginning business for himself in the country. It was proposed that I should join him. This was very agreeable to me. I had, at that time, no views of anything higher; and it accorded well with the first bent of my mind, which was strongly inclined to mechanics. If of late all my spare hours had been devoted to reading, at an earlier period they had been equally devoted to mechanics. When very young, I had erected a turning lathe in my father's barn; had procured planes, chisels, and a variety of other implements, which I could use with no small degree of dexterity.

"For some time my mind was wholly occupied with my new trade. I acquired considerable knowledge and facility in constructing most of the different implements used in husbandry, and could also do a little as a cabinet-maker. But I soon began to feel less and less interest in my new employment. My business came to be a repetition of the same thing, and lost all its charms of novelty and invention. The taste for

reading, which I had brought from the south, though it had suffered some abatement, had not left me. I was occasionally poring over my dictionary and grammar, and other volumes that came in my way.

"At this time, a circumstance occurred which gave my mind an entirely new bent. My brother, while at Glasgow, had formed a very close intimacy with a student there. This young gentleman, during the vacation, came out to see my brother, and pass a few days in the country. From him I received marvellous accounts of what mighty things were to be learned, what wonders to be seen—about a university; and I imbibed an unquenchable desire to follow his course."

How the biographer has acquitted himself, when the subject was to his mind, the reader may imagine from the following beautiful passage in the life of Alexander Ross, the author of a poem too little known, 'The Fortunate Shepherdess.'

"In 1726, Ross married Jane Cattanaich, the daughter of a farmer in Aberdeenshire, and descended by the mother from the ancient family of Duguid of Auchinhove. In 1732, by the influence of his friend, Mr. Garden of Troup, he was appointed schoolmaster of Lochlee, in Angus; and the rest of his life was spent in the discharge of the duties of this humble office. There are, perhaps, few pieces of scenery in Scotland of a more wild and poetical character than that in which Ross's lot was cast. Lochlee is a thinly-peopled parish, lying in the very centre of the Grampians, at the head of the valley of the North Esk. The population is almost entirely confined to one solitary glen, the green fields and smoking cottages of which are singularly refreshing to the eye of the traveller, after the weary extent of bleak moor and mountain which hem in the spot on all sides. On a mound in the centre, stands the ruin of an ancient fortalice, built by the powerful family of the Lindsays of Edzel, as a place of retreat, where they could defy those dangers which they could not cope with in their Lowland domains, in the How of the Mearns. The loch, which gives its name to the parish, is a very beautiful sheet of water, imbedded deep among steep and craggy mountains. The Lee, the stream which feeds it, flows through a very wild glen, and over a rocky channel, in several picturesque waterfalls. On one of the tall precipices that form its sides, an eagle has built its nest, secure from molestation, in the inaccessible nature of the cliff. The remains of Ross's house still exist, situated near the eastern extremity of the loch, and only a few feet from the water's edge. Near at hand, surrounded by a few aged trees, is the little burying ground of the parish, the tombstones of which bear some epitaphs from Ross's pen, and there his own ashes are deposited. The poet's house is now occupied as a sheepfold; and the garden, on which it is said he bestowed much of his time, can still be traced by the rank luxuriance of the weeds and grass, and the fragments of a rude wall. It is impossible to look on the ruins of this humble hut, without interest: its dimensions are thirty feet in length, and twelve in breadth; and this narrow space was all that was allotted to the school-room and the residence of its master. The walls seem to have contained but two apartments, each about twelve square feet in size, and the eastern was that occupied by Ross, from whom one of the windows, now built up, is still named the Poet's window. He had trained to cluster around it honeysuckle and sweet-briar; and here, looking forth on the waters of the loch, is said to have been his favourite seat when engaged in composition. So deep and confined is the glen at this spot, that, for thirty days of the winter, the sun never shines on the poet's dwelling. The emoluments of Ross's office were small, but perhaps more lucrative than the majority of paro-

chial schools in the same quarter, from his being entitled to a sort of glebe, and some other small perquisites."

The account of William Meston is also much to our liking; his poetry is not at all known in England; he is the most successful of all the imitators of Butler; the introduction to 'Mother Grim's Tales' will go far to prove this—we quote from memory; he is satirizing the Presbyterians.

In pious, all-reforming times,  
When sense and learning were thought crimes;  
When zeal had got the start of reason,  
And loyalty was called treason;  
When apostolic constitutions  
Were banished by new revolutions;  
Instead of which the sough and tone  
Were counted orthodox alone;  
When impudence, grimace, and cant,  
Were thought enough to make a saint;  
And when a sullen wry-mouth'd face  
Pass'd for a certain mark of grace,  
And pulpit-thumpers did express  
Their indigested raw address,  
With far less manners, though more tone,  
To heaven than to the British throne;  
And less devoutly supplicate  
Their God than civil magistrate;  
Cried down all forms of prayer rather  
Than lie in calling God their father.

This, we opine, is sharp and to the point: his works abound in passages of equal or superior merit; nor should it be forgotten that the poet, in his account of the accomplishments of Sir John Presbyter, gives the first intimation of a science commonly ascribed to Germany, but which, if there be truth in rhyme, owes its paternity to Caledonia.

He made a geometric scale  
To gauge men's heads like casks of ale;  
All for to find out the dimensions,  
Capacities, plots, and intentions,  
Of statesmen, mountebanks, and jugglers,  
Intelligencers, spies, and smugglers.

*The History of Gujarât, translated from the Persian of Ali Mohammed Khán, by J. Bird, Esq. Published for the Oriental Translation Committee, by R. Bentley.*

*Annals of the Emperors of Japan. [Nipon O Dai Itsi Ran.] Translated under the superintendence of M. J. Titsingh. A new edition, revised and corrected by M. J. Klaproth. Published for the Oriental Translation Committee, by Parbury & Co.*

WITH the exception of Brigg's Ferishta, and perhaps Gladwin's Ayen Akbery, Mr. Bird's translation of the History of Gujarât is the most important contribution to our stock of information, respecting the establishment and political condition of the Mohammedan power in India, that has yet been derived from oriental sources. The original author, Ali Mohammed Khán, who was the imperial revenue minister in the province, devoted fourteen years to the preparation of his work, and seems to have neglected no source of knowledge that could be rendered available. He dwells rather briefly on the history of the Hindú Rájás, but this deficiency is amply remedied by the translator, whose historical introduction contains a spirited sketch of the state of Hindú society, at the time of the Ghaznevid invasion, and a more satisfactory account of the career of the ferocious Mahmúd, than has yet been published in Europe. The successive expeditions of this great conqueror have been confounded together by most writers, and hence an air of extravagance is given to the accounts of the merciless slaughters he committed, and the vast treasures he brought away; but Mr. Bird, by carefully distinguishing the Sultan's seve-

ral crusades against idolatry, has removed the marvellous appearance from the narrative, and substituted historic truth for poetry and fable.

The history of Gujarât has little of European interest, before its subjection to the empire of Delhi, in the reign of the illustrious Akbar; but we have been greatly interested by some of the particulars respecting this great monarch, which are mentioned by Ali Mohammed. His circular letter to all persons intrusted with authority under him, displays more political wisdom, and more genuine liberality, than could have been expected from an Asiatic sovereign. The increasing importance of Western India must direct public attention to a history, which describes its resources under the most able of the Mogul emperors, as, by inveterate error, the successors of the Jagatay Baber are called; especially as Akbar's administration was well calculated to show the extent both of its agricultural and commercial capabilities.

The Translation of the Annals of Japan was originally made under the superintendence of Mr. Titsingh, the Dutch resident in that island. Being himself ignorant of the original, he was forced to rely on his official interpreters, and they made several gross errors which the original editor could not correct. Impressed with the importance of giving Europeans some just notions of a country so little known as Japan, and yet so commercially valuable, M. Klaproth has revised, or rather re-translated, this curious history. It is a fit companion to Dr. Siebold's Archives of Japan, two livraisons of which have already been published, and which promises, when complete, to give a perfect account of the past and present state of the Japanese empire and commerce. We happen to know, that the late Sir Stamford Raffles was very anxious to open the Japanese trade to British enterprise, and that he deeply lamented the cession of Java to the Dutch, because it interfered with this favourite project. The commercial revolution, which is now extending over the entire Indian Ocean, will probably compel the emperors, both of Japan and China, to modify their exclusive policy; a system of policy which, earnestly as we condemn, we must confess, was in some degree forced upon these sovereigns, by a just dread of European ambition and European rapacity.

*Scenes and Stories by a Clergyman in Debt.*  
3 vols. London: Baily & Co.

We have been somewhat perplexed to know what to do with this work. The first volume has been long lying on our table—the second was received last week—but the third has not yet arrived. As, however, it treats on a subject of very general interest, and is evidently written by one who speaks from melancholy experience, we have resolved not longer to defer some notice of it.

The professed objects of the publication are, to recommend the abolition of imprisonment for debt, and to show the necessity of increased punishment for fraud; and these arguments are enforced by taking the reader through the whole course of law proceedings, and illustrating their effects by example, and scenes from life; and certainly some of the facts recorded are most strange and startling. The

work, however, would have been far better had it been written in a more equal temper; scenes of boisterous mirth and dissipation, however natural and prison-like, strike painfully on feelings deeply sympathising with sorrow and suffering;—but as we mean to confine ourselves to such extracts as tend to enforce the main arguments, the objection will not be felt by our readers, and need not be dwelt on. In taking this particular view, we wish not to be misunderstood. There is, in our opinion, a great deal of maudlin sentiment passing current in the world on this subject. We agree, with most sensible persons, that the law which authorizes imprisonment for debt, is a barbarous absurdity, and disgraceful to the age—but we do so in consideration of its absurdity, and not from any extraordinary sympathy with imprisoned debtors, the great majority of whom are men utterly reckless of the misery they inflict on others. It is all very well to talk of hard-hearted creditors, but hard-hearted debtors are a thousand-fold more numerous. We have considered this subject with anxious attention, and are fully satisfied that the cases of misery so often dwelt on, in which virtuous, struggling, self-denying men sink into misfortune, are rare exceptions, and the cases where such men are persecuted and driven into gaol are still more so. The particular instances, too, which we shall adduce from the work before us, prove only the abuse of the law—but we object to the law, for the reasons given. Let us, however, come at once to the subject. Here is a strange course of proceedings, for which the law itself must be responsible; for no sensible reason can be given why such means of annoyance should be left in the power of a creditor:—

"A person being arrested, and not intending to go to Whitecross-street, can only remove to that one of the other debtors' prisons,—the King's Bench or the Fleet,—in whose court the action against him is laid: so that if the writ be in the Exchequer or Common Pleas, he goes to the Fleet; if the King's Bench, to Banco Regis. So far so good; as the privilege, in either case, although dearly paid for, is a great accommodation.

"But it so happens, that if you have an action against you, upon which you have removed to the Fleet, as soon as a vindictive creditor, who has another action against you in the Court of King's Bench, hears of your entrance into the other prison, he has only to wait until you have procured a room, paid for it a month in advance, completed your arrangements, and made yourself as comparatively comfortable as your dwelling will admit; and then he can commence his system of persecution, by lodging his detainer at the gate; and having obtained execution, he can take you up by habeas to receive judgment in the Court of King's Bench, which immediately commits you to the custody of the Marshal of the Marshalsea: so that, without being able to go back to arrange even your clothes for your departure, you are delivered over to the tipstaff of the other prison, and removed *volens* into your new abode. Nay, more; if, after you have again become in a measure settled in your changed quarters, your first action in the Exchequer or Pleas should have run on also to execution, your former plaintiff can, in his turn, take you up by habeas to his court for judgment; and there you are put to the inconvenience of being recommitted to the Fleet, to undergo all the expenses attendant on your first *entrée*, in time, perhaps, to be by some fresh action again sent back to the King's Bench.

"To effect this the plaintiff is put each time to a considerable expense out of pocket; all of which, with the profit it involves to his attorney, is put down in his bill of costs, which you must eventually pay before you get discharged from the action."

Another extraordinary case is given in proof of the iniquitous uses to which the law of arrest may be made subservient:—

"A foreign gentleman, in the silk trade, was arrested by his own servant, the day he had made an application to the Lord Mayor to have the said servant taken before his lordship for embezzlement of money.

"Being brought into the Bench Prison, the agent of an attorney offered to bail him out, for the sum of twelve pounds; upon which the deponent paid down directly eight pounds. The day after, the said agent told him, that as he, the deponent, had not previously succeeded in justifying, he was obliged to pay the expenses of the opposing party, or plaintiff. To meet these said costs, the deponent was obliged to pay him directly seven pounds, before he, the said attorney and agent, for he was both, would give notice of bail. After his fifteen pounds were gone, the agent and attorney was not any more seen or heard of.

"Then the deponent has recourse to another party, Mr. S—, whom he found in the lobby of the prison, and to whom he agreed to pay twelve pounds to justify for him. He paid him effectually the twelve pounds, and eight more for the costs of the plaintiff in opposing the justification of bail. Deponent does not complain of Mr. S—, who fulfilled with him his agreement; but, in reality, to extricate himself from prison for a false debt of eighty pounds, and for which the plaintiff has been since condemned to eight or nine months' imprisonment, for an embezzlement, deponent paid—

	£.	s.	d.
To his own attorney before surrendering .....	15	0	0
Expenses of bonds, lock-up-house, &c. ....	10	0	0
Swindled by the agent and attorney ..	15	0	0
To Mr. S— for justifying bail ..	12	0	0
Expenses to the opposing attorney ..	8	0	0
Forty-two days' imprisonment, at 4l. per week .....	24	0	0
Gate fees, compliments to turnkeys, &c. ....	3	0	0
Total .....	£87	0	0

"I could not," says the gentleman, "get a room at first, and was at the coffee-house during two weeks, where, without any wine, I paid about ten shillings a-day; and when I got a room, I paid for it 1l. 10s. per week. My calculation, therefore, at 4l. per week on the whole of my confinement is certainly under the mark."

But the following, under all circumstances, is the most startling narrative in the volume: names are given, and we presume that the circumstances are correctly stated:—

"Let us begin by making our readers acquainted with a system prevailing to a great extent in all our debtors' prisons, and one of the chief means of keeping them so numerously tenanted as they unhappily are;—a system based upon a regular superstructure of swindling, and practised by the most reckless class of rogues.

"Montford had not long been a dweller in the Bench before this very system was developed to him in the most circumstantial manner by a fellow-prisoner, who had been his victim, and who was then confined in company with his own plaintiff,—whom he pointed out to our hero in the person of Jos. Russel, a most notorious swindler, since deceased. But Jos. Russel deserves, at least, a *post-mortem* renown, just as his system deserves exposure; and we

will do our best for both, taking the system first.

"This, then, was thus described to Montford. Suppose a private individual anxious to discount a bill, which, not being mercantile, he could not get cashed through the medium of a city broker.—He is recommended to a person residing in some city square—a Methodist parson, perhaps, (we could adduce a notorious case in point) who will do it for him; or he is, as is still oftener the case, referred to the parson's agent, who is allowed so much by his employer for getting the bill, and so much by the gentleman for cashing it. The money is given—say 35*l.* for a 40*l.* bill—with the understanding that if the gentleman should be 'short' when it becomes due, it can be renewed. This intimation is invariably given when the party is known to have money, in order to excite a carelessness as to the taking up of the bill, and, if possible, to prevent its being paid to the moment. Well, the gentleman departs with his money, and the agent flies off to the parson with the bill. The parson at once hands it over to Jos. Russel. The well-trained and well-training Jos.; who may be in prison or not, as he finds it suit his purpose, has always a gang of desperate rogues, some in, and some out of jail, but all connected with the debtors' prisons, in his pay. His first step, then, on receiving the bill, is to endorse it himself; his next, to repair to these precious confederates, to whom he pays one or two shillings each to write their names on the back of the bill, upon the understanding that, if at large, they are to be arrested; if in jail, to be served with common writs. In this manner, Jos. procures sixteen or twenty endorsements to the bill; the more the merrier for Jos.

"The bill runs its time, and becomes due. The gentleman, careless, as was expected and intended, is not at home when it is presented, and perhaps calls in a couple of days afterwards to take it up. The Methodist parson has not got it, indeed it is at his attorney's, but if the gentleman will call to-morrow, he can take it up; at the same time, he believes there are two or three pounds costs upon it, which he had better be prepared to pay.

"The gentleman accordingly calls the next day; sheriff's officers are in waiting for him, and he is arrested. He is taken to a spunging house, and there for the first time, he is astounded at the use that has been made of the interval of time between the day when the bill became due, and the day when the money was tendered. He finds that it has been endorsed by some twenty persons, and that, in that interval, the whole of the twenty have had writs issued against them, at a cost of three pounds each; thus leaving his debt at its original amount of forty pounds, and his costs at a trifle more than sixty pounds! It is well, then, if he have the money to pay; for if he have not, the proceedings are further carried out against all the endorsers, who are, perhaps, instructed to plead, for the purpose of swelling costs, and then there is no knowing where the amount of costs is to end. And this nefarious system is no exception to the rule of common law; by far a greater number of persons are thrown into prison by it, than ever go there from just debts; and it was once proved in court, that this very Jos. Russel held at one time upon its practice twelve prisoners in the Fleet; seventeen or eighteen in the King's Bench; and about thirty in Whitecross Street; and that upon one action brought upon a bill in a similar manner to that which we have described, where the original debt was 170*l.*, a sum of 200*l.* had been paid; the furniture of three houses sold up in execution; about forty persons committed to prison, many of them of course wilfully; and that then, at the time when the defence was put in, the amount

of money claimed was no less a sum than 580*l.* This is a fact recorded in a court of law."

The scenes in the spunging-house, and in the prisons, are often interesting from their manifest truth—the following brief sketch of a prison cook must be from the life:—

"While we are upon the mention of this fact, it might not be amiss that we should remark upon the customary privileges of the cook to a jail. This important personage then dresses your dinner, if you choose; and he charges you no small portion of its value for doing you that favour. He roasts you a goose for a shilling, or a duck for eight-pence; he boils you for two-pence, potatoes which cost a penny; he fries you for four-pence, a sole which cost six-pence; he evades the Act of Parliament which provides that he shall give you two kettles of hot water for nothing, out of the copper—by refusing to give you one kettle of boiling water, unless you pay for it. Government had forgotten to stipulate that the water should boil!"

We have also other life-like pictures of the inmates. The most interesting, perhaps, is that of the famous Captain Johnson, the smuggler; and we shall, for variety, give an account of his famous escape from the New Gaol in the Borough, which is here narrated in his own words. It would seem impossible that such things could have happened within our memory. Johnson, at the time referred to, was, it appears, keeping his horses and carriages, and living like a nobleman in Fitzroy Square! He was engaged in some smuggling transactions when attacked by a party of dragoons, and as, in consequence of resistance, we suppose, he was likely, if brought to trial, to pay with his life the penalty of his misdeeds, he resolved on attempting to escape. We shall now allow him to tell his own strange story:—

"I immediately ordered that my men and horses should be kept in constant exercise and training every day in Hyde Park, and also that my reserve of one hundred Irishmen in St. Giles's should be apprised to hold themselves in readiness for that purpose. I gave directions to my captain and lieutenant, who commanded them, to select twenty of the most steady, active, and resolute men out of that number, to be in readiness at a day's notice, during which period each man should receive ten shillings per week, and one guinea on the day on which their personal attendance might be required. \* \* \*

"I next ordered my tailor to make two conspicuous dresses of olive-coloured velvet jackets, striped gingham trousers, and travelling caps. The object of this dress was to enable the twenty Irishmen in waiting to distinguish the difference between the prisoners and the turnkeys, who, in all probability, might rush out after them into the street. The trousers were made the better to conceal the irons, that it should not be known whether they had irons on their legs, or not. I also directed my armourer, Mr. Owen Gill, who had the charge of my arms in London, to overhaul our fire-arms, and bring two brace of double-barrelled pistols for each of us, and a brace of musketoons, with bayonets closed underneath with springs, so that each should be armed with two brace of double-barrelled pistols in the belt, and a single musketoon for each to hold in one hand, which, by having the pocket-handkerchief carelessly thrown over it for the few minutes, or as long as might be necessary to conceal it from the sight of the turnkeys while passing the gate, the other hand would be at liberty to force the door open: thus far our arrangements inside the prison were perfect. Directions were then given for our favourite horses to be also ready prepared, with large horse-pistols to the saddle, and a sword

strapped on to the holsters, &c. These two led horses were to be brought by another of my servants, and stationed in the angle, close to St. George's church, in the Borough, and opposite to the *Dun Horse*, a distance of about forty yards from the prison gate.

"The next object was, that the signal lieutenant might be stationed just opposite the prison window. \* \* \* The next point was a conference with the officer or captain commanding, and the Irishmen in the street, as follows:—'You are to conduct yourselves in the most orderly and peaceable manner; stand close to the curbstone, opposite the gate; you will see two men, dressed in jackets and trousers, with hairy caps; allow them every facility to pass to their horses, which you will observe in waiting; directly after they pass, close upon them, and any man, person or persons, who may attempt to follow them, grasp them fast in your arms, and ask them, "My honey dear, and what is the matter? you appear to be in a very great hurry; can I do anything for you?" &c. until these two men are mounted on their horses, and gone; after which, you will return in the most orderly and peaceable manner, take your money and refreshment, and go to your homes like good boys."

When the time came, and not till then, for he observes, "Tapsell was on the point of marriage, and the daily visits of his intended bride made it imprudent to disclose my plots to him"—

"I took Tapsell out into the adjoining yard, and then informed him as follows:—"William, perhaps you may not be aware of the awful situation in which we stand; I therefore feel it a duty I owe to you, as well as myself, to tell you our exact position, and the remedy I mean to apply. Upon a true bill of indictment being found against us, I immediately took the opportunity of laying a strong case before one of the ablest counsellors I could find; I received his opinion, namely, that upon the counsellor on the part of the crown trying the charge upon one particular Act of Parliament, nothing in the power of the law could save us, the offence being death, without the benefit of clergy. From that moment, up to the present, I have been preparing for our escape; I therefore tell you, that in less than ten minutes after I receive your answer I shall be a dead man, or at large. \* \* \* Poor William turned pale, and heaved a heavy sigh. He then begged a few minutes' consideration, which I granted, at the same time observing, that either ways, I had fully made up my mind to make my escape, or die in the attempt. He then replied, "I prefer death rather than be separated from you; for we have fought hard battles together, and I am determined that nothing but death shall ever separate us."

"On hearing this, I took his hand, and said, "Now then, my brave comrade in misfortune, you shall be gratified; here are two brace of double-barrelled pistols, and a musketoon; they are in the best order. \* \* \* The moment any man attempts to hold up his hand against you shoot him dead; when I give you the signal."

Having now, under different pretences, got some of the turnkeys out of the way, Johnson and Tapsell accompanied a friend to the gate—

"And, before the turnkey could close the door," says the Captain, "I put my foot against the frame of the door, uncovered my musketoon, and placed it to his head, telling him, that if he attempted to move, he was a dead man. At this moment Tapsell passed behind me, and ran down the steps into the street. On finding him thus far advanced, I pulled out another pistol, and threatened the other turnkey with instant death if he attempted to move one step from the spot. Observing the two turnkeys' position,



standing motionless, as if rivetted to the ground with fear and astonishment, I sprang from the door, and in a few seconds joined Tapsell, whom I found surrounded by my faithful band of Irishmen. \* \* \* The Irishmen then grappled the turnkeys, while we mounted our horses, offering instant death to any man who dared molest our progress, and rode off to the great astonishment of all the spectators, taking the High Street, Borough, to the Stone's-end, near the Bench, where the toll-keeper closed the gate against us, at which, I pointed my pistol at him; but in a second he disappeared into the toll-house. I had no alternative but to face the gate, which my Peggy cleared in gallant style. At this moment, Tapsell being unacquainted with London, took the direct road to the Elephant and Castle. I then called to him to take the first turning to the right, which he did; and we soon afterwards joined again, passing through Vauxhall-gate; after which we put our horses to their full speed on the Windsor road: we then turned down to the right, to Mr. William Higgs's house, the gardener in the fields, where I was furnished with files, &c. to divest Tapsell of the irons he had on his legs. I found a pleasant reception from poor old Higgs; the more so, as his son was then one of my servants. We then remounted, passed over Battersea Bridge, taking the road to Hyde Park Corner. We called at the British Hotel (Mr. Hickenbottom's), where Mrs. Johnson and my other men were in waiting. I next proceeded to my house at Fitzroy Square, changed horses and dress, and took the private road by Maiden Lane, Battle Bridge, to Copenhagen Fields, to Highgate, where I was joined by Mrs. Johnson, in a curricule, and six more of my servants, well armed and mounted. We passed over Finchley Common, turned to the left to Elstree, on the Edgeware Road. We all passed the night together at the Red Lion, St. Albans, and, in the morning, before daylight, we were again on the road. I again changed my dress, and sent all my men, with Mrs. Johnson, back to London. I then travelled on horseback, Tapsell in livery, with a rosette in his hat, and epaulettes, with my great coat secured by a belt round his waist, with pistols in his holsters, &c. We took the right road to Rickmansworth, where we halted, Tapsell attending to the horses in the stable. I was shown into a room; I ordered some refreshment, and begged to see the newspaper. I was informed that they only received their papers twice a week, the one the day previously, and the next on the following day. All this happened very fortunately, inasmuch that I was sure the news could not, therefore, reach that village before our departure in the early part of the next day. I had not finally made up my mind to pass the night there, before I had ascertained whether there was any arrival from London, or not. The horses remained saddled in the stable till eleven o'clock, the hour at which they closed the house for the night. I then paid our bill, and arranged with Tapsell to start at four o'clock the next morning.

"We passed the night without any interruption, and, at four o'clock in the morning, resumed our journey back through Stanmore, and then to Elstree, where we had armed the day previously, and where I had appointed to give Mrs. Johnson and two confidential friends the meeting, for the purpose of receiving the London news. In all the placards, newspapers, &c., the high rewards, &c., they had a very important account of my person. I then shaved my whiskers, and took another disguised dress, &c., and returned to London in a close chariot. We arrived at a coach-fringe shop in Oxford Street; here we remained a week, until a more secure retreat was prepared for our reception in Maddox Street. It had been a sort of corn-chandler's shop. Here we fortified the doors

and windows, and placed four blunderbusses on the staircases, and secured a retreat from the top of the house. We were supplied with every necessary article we could want, and remained one week. We next removed to the old closed house, No. 2, Pallam Street, Piccadilly, where we had also fortified ourselves, and prepared for the last possible defence."

After this we have full particulars of Johnson's second escape from the Fleet prison—of his contemplated attempt to effect the rescue of Buonaparte from St. Helena, by submarine ships—and other strange and stirring adventures. Johnson, as is well known, was subsequently employed by government on more than one occasion, and for his services in Holland he received a free pardon and the rank and pay of a captain in the British Navy. These adventures, with the account of the last days of Garside and Mosely, the murderers of Mr. Ashton, who, in consequence of some difference between the sheriffs of the town and county, were, strangely enough, confined in the King's Bench prison, with anecdotes and sketches of other known characters, tend to give variety to the work, which is likely, we think, to interest the public.

*The Natural Son.* Translated from Spindler, by Lord Albert Conyngham. 3 vols. London: Mitchell.

We have often thought, that should our occupation fail, (which, at present, the stars do not portend,) we might find a welcome reception at the court of some Pasha of many Tales, in virtue of the innumerable fictions, which it has been our province (and pleasure) to examine, since we took up the staff and scales of criticism; and which remain in our memories, a confused mass, it is true, of incident and character, but sufficiently distinct and various to insure us the reward of purple and fine linen from the most insatiable lover of stories, who ever wore turban, or solaced himself with a chibouk.

Here, in the midst of those more sparkling and short-lived ephemera, which our own press sends forth week by week, we are presented with a German romance, substantial enough to furnish the less diligent inventors of our own land with plots for half a dozen stories. The novels of Spindler are not unknown to the English public, through the medium of translators, 'The Jew,' and 'The Jesuit,' having been already rendered into English; but we prefer 'The Natural Son' to either of them—the thick-crowding incidents which it contains, do not hide the human nature of their actors: some of the scenes are touching and simple; some, strange and thrilling, and calculated to delight those who enjoy tales of witchcraft and the dark doings in convents; and, except towards the commencement of the third volume, where the interest flags a little, we are carried on through the entire twelve hundred pages of the tale, without a single feeling of weariness, or the least tendency to echo Christopher Sly's "Excellent good, Lady madam; would 'twere done!"

To give any minute account of the web of intrigue and adventures, the mazes of which the reader must thread while perusing 'The Natural Son' is beyond our powers; suffice it to say, that, by the unlooked-for death of his father, kind-hearted Philip Verner, Archibald, the hero of the story, is

left abandoned to the abuse and injustice of the legitimate heir, Philip the younger, as thorough-going a villain as ever made dark the pages of Banim or Maturin. The out-cast boy, however, is adopted by an old Mother Lene, a witch or wise woman, and when she is no longer able to protect him, he falls into the hands of our celebrated countryman, Doctor Dee, whose character, by the way, Spindler seems hardly to have comprehended. He was something more, at the earlier part of his career, than the mere and mean intriguer here represented, and was to a certain degree, deceived by his own enthusiasm. Dr. Dee places his charge in a monastery, (some of the scenes which occur during his sojourn there, remind us strongly of the most striking parts of 'Melmoth,') and afterwards conducts him through various adventures, among others he places him in capacity of barber and confidant at the court of Rudolph the Second. The character of this monarch, fantastic, timid, and passionate, is well drawn. To come to an end of what is no summary, as we are compelled to leave unmentioned nine-tenths of the persons who figure in the novel—we may just say, that Archibald proves too subtle for his instructor, emancipates himself from his control, is disgraced, by the machinations of his enemies, and banished; that he passes through many perils in court and camp, and finally, after having returned home to the city of Ulm, with full purpose of avenging himself upon his former tyrant and persecutor, he finds that guilt has done its usual work, and degraded Philip Verner into a state of misery, both of mind and body, and he is in consequence moved, by better influences, to repay his wrongs, by forgiving their author. We shall give as a specimen of the work, the following scene, taken from the first volume, in preference to one of more elaborate description. Philip Verner has been followed to Ulm by a poor girl, whom he had seduced; she takes up her dwelling in an obscure lodging, not daring to present herself at his rich mansion, and, deceived by his false words, awaits a visit from him, little guessing that he is on the point of marrying another:—

"The kind Maria lived in happy ignorance of what was passing, and looked forward with the utmost impatience to the evening which Philip had promised to embellish by his visit. She quitted her couch, and endeavoured to stand upon her worn-out feet. She succeeded; for the prospect of receiving her lover sustained her. She arranged her head-dress as becomingly as she could; concealed, as well as she was able, the rents and stains upon her grey travelling gown, placed a nosegay of May flowers upon her swelling bosom, and then, with the assistance of her little attendant, having hung the room with festoons of intermingled flowers and leaves, awaited in pleasing expectation the arrival of her beloved. How her heart beat when, as twilight came, she heard his well-known step upon the staircase, and how joyful she felt, as the long desired, the dearly beloved, entered her miserable apartment. She rushed towards him, threw her snow-white arms round his neck, and greeted him with every expression of the fondest love. Philip disengaged himself from her with a brief 'How are you?' cast a displeased look round the room, and asked, 'What is all this? What mean all these garlands and nosegays?'

"Do not be displeased," entreated Maria, in a subdued tone: "it was only for my amusement, and I thought it might make you gay."

Forgive the vanity of your future bride, who would fain receive her beloved in a room adorned for her reception as well as she could adorn it. I fancied too, that here I saw the flowers and myrtles of a nuptial chamber.'

"A nuptial chamber!" cried Philip, as he recovered himself sufficiently to add, with an attempt at a smile, 'What extraordinary beings you women are! Hardly are you freed from the depths of despair, when you again give way to the impulse of your childish fancy; as easily too, as if you had never suffered affliction.'

"My dear Philip," answered Maria, in a melancholy tone, and taking his hand as she spoke, 'Is it not then our fate to live more for the pleasures of imagination, than for those of reality? But forgive me; I did not mean to offend you. If it be your wish, I will instantly strip my poor apartment of its ornaments.'

"You will oblige me," replied Philip; and Maria hurried, although her eyes filled with tears, to strip the walls of their ornaments, then stood before Philip with the last nosegay which she had taken down in her hand, and asked him, with a melancholy smile, 'Are you satisfied now, my beloved?'

"Yes—yes!" answered Philip, hesitatingly, seating himself by the table. 'Fling the trash out of the window.'

"'Tis your will," replied Maria, again repressing her tears; 'I obey.' She hung her head in sorrow, moved gently towards the window, and opened it. She then looked out for a moment—'No, Philip,' she commenced—'No! scold or laugh at me as you please, I cannot obey you! The gloom of the court presents itself to me like that of the grave, into which I am now about to cast with my own hand all my hopes. Forgive, Philip, the foolish humours of an excited woman: pardon my refusal, on account of my situation.'

Verner smiled scornfully, stood up, and took the garlands from her. 'How childish you are,' he cried, as he cast them out of the window; 'if you will not yourself cast hope over-board, I suppose that I must do so for you.'

In parting, we recommend 'The Natural Son' to all who love a genuine novel, told with true German good faith.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

'*Roberts's Oriental Illustrations of the Scriptures.*'—We have received a copy of this work at too late an hour to bestow upon it that attention which the importance of the subject demands. The author, during a long residence in the East, has collected, from reading and observation, a great number of illustrations of passages in the Bible, which naturally are obscure to European readers, unacquainted, or at least not familiar, with the peculiar customs, superstitions, and habits of thought and action that characterize Asiatic nations. We shall take an early opportunity of examining the work at length, and we trust that we shall convince the author of the mistake made by his friends, when they told him "to expect no mercy from Reviewers."

'*A large sheet Chart of the Eastern Coast of China, from latitude 23° north, to Peking, in latitude 40° north, constructed and published by James Horsburgh, Hydrographer to the H.E.I.C.*'—This chart cannot fail to be most acceptable and most useful to navigators, both European and American, if not to the Chinese themselves; the cities, chief towns, headlands, harbours, &c. being marked with the Chinese characters. The introduction of the Chinese characters will enable any commander of a vessel to arrive speedily at the desired port, if only a fisherman can be obtained as a pilot or guide, for almost every individual of the empire can read the national written character; therefore, if the

commander of a ship only puts his finger on the character, the fisherman will know to what port he is required to take the vessel.

'*New England and her Institutions*, by one of her Sons.'—If we mistake not, this volume may be ascribed to Mr. Greenwood, a writer of some reputation in America, as we remember to have seen the last sketch in the volume, 'The Village Choir,' published in a separate volume, with, we believe, that gentleman's name prefixed. It is written in a quiet unaffected style. In the chapters entitled 'Ecclesiastical Organization,' and 'College Life,' will be found some new information relative to the concerns of religion, and the education of youth in the United States; in the sketch called 'The Revival,' our author defends these meetings from the censures heaped upon them by the less enthusiastic and the satirical. In 'Slavery,' and 'The Insurrection,' he speaks of the condition of the Negroes in America, in a fearless and uncompromising manner. There are, in addition to these, a few lighter papers, such as 'The District School,' and the one already alluded to: these are rather too much spun out; but the tone of the entire volume is peaceful and benevolent, with an out-break of quiet humour here and there, which is agreeable and natural; and we think it deserves to find readers in Old England as well as New.

'*St. Leon*, a drama, in three Acts.'—As our readers would naturally suppose, Godwin's matchless novel has furnished the subject of this drama. It is not an opinion forced on us by the perusal of this work, but one long entertained, that any man who adopts, even in degree, the plot of a celebrated novel as the groundwork of a drama, runs a great risk of failure; and we might justify this opinion by adducing in evidence even the 'Werner' of Byron, which, in its interest, falls far short of Miss Lee's original and thrilling story. We know not that the story of 'St. Leon' could have been better arranged than in the drama before us, which contains also a fair sprinkling of livelier scenes to relieve those of a graver cast: but we cannot forget the original Marguerite, and Bethlem Gabor, and St. Leon, with his magnificent soliloquy when he first feels conscious that he is indeed possessed of the secret of perpetual life. It is unsurpassed in our language.

'*Nugæ Poeticæ. Original Poems*, by John Ryan.'—The greater part of these poetic trifles, their author informs us, were written between his fifteenth and twentieth year. "He states the circumstance, so that if there be among critics any 'bowels of compassion' for the efforts of boyhood, he may be entitled to their benefit." This is a plea which has been urged till it would seem almost superfluous to answer it. If a book require a preliminary apology, its author should have confined its circulation to those friends, who, from personal regard for him, might be disposed to overlook its faults, but if it be thrust before the public, justice becomes a duty, and the critic must declare the truth. This is not meant to apply particularly to Mr. Ryan, but to all apologetic prefaces, for he is one of those who may hereafter write better, as the following song gives promise.

Oh! where is love?  
With yonder silvery light 'tis blended,  
When far above,  
The radiant moon shineth!  
But when she declineth,  
Then love like her reign is ended!  
Oh! where is love?  
'Tis in the beauteous rainbow beaming!  
And loth remove  
From him that pursueth,  
'Till the chase be rueth,  
And he finds he hath been dreaming!  
Oh! where is love?  
'Tis in the short-lived meteor glowing  
The stream above;  
And affection ceaseth  
As that light decreaseth,  
Or sinks in the streamlet flowing!

'*The Composing Room; a Serio-comico-satirical poetic Production, in three Cantos*, by G. Brimmer, M.L.U.C., imposer, corrector, locker-up, layer-up, and distributor of Types at some of the principal offices in the metropolis of Great Britain.'—We have transcribed this long title to save ourselves and our readers some little trouble. They will not require many more words to explain to them the nature of the poem; the interest and amusement of which will be chiefly confined to our worthy helpmates and friends of the press. It is full of technical allusions, and jokes which will be only intelligible to those well versed in the mysteries of type and composition.

'*Cabinet Cyclopædia: Eminent Literary and Scientific Men of Italy, Spain, and Portugal*, Vol. I.'—The first volume contains Memoirs of Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Lorenzo de' Medici, Boccardo, Berny, Ariosto, and Machiavelli; all interesting subjects, but the writer never goes directly to his purpose, and his style wants simplicity.

'*A New Dictionary of the English Language*, by Charles Richardson, Part I.'—'*A Critical and Facsimile Pronouncing and Explanatory Dictionary*, by James Knowles, Parts I. & II.'—Mr. Richardson's Dictionary is in some degree known to the public, a great part having already appeared in the published volumes of the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*. "The principle upon which I have proceeded," he observes, "is that so clearly evolved, and so incontrovertibly demonstrated in the 'Diversions of Purley,' namely, that a word has one meaning, and one only; and that all usages must spring and be derived from this meaning." The illustrative quotations are also arranged according to date, thus throwing a light upon the history of our language, equally instructive and interesting. The work, when complete, will be one of authority and of great value. The claims of Mr. Knowles's work are of a different character; it is a work for every-day use, and immediate reference, and this object being considered, is well executed. It will contain no less than seventy-seven thousand words, being some twenty thousand more than Todd's Johnson.

'*Coghlan's Pocket Picture of London.*'—A good guide book to London is much wanted, but till such a work is published, the present may have its use.

'*Döring's Horace, with notes*, by Professor Anthon.'—This is, by far, the best school edition of Horace that has yet been published in England. Professor Anthon has selected and condensed the works of the best previous commentators, removing those redundancies which rendered the study of the notes more difficult than that of the text, but preserving everything necessary to illustrate the author. The book is printed with great beauty and accuracy, and, moreover, is wonderfully cheap.

'*Nuttall's Virgil.*'—An interlinear translation of the *Bucolics*, executed with laudable fidelity. There are some new and striking views of the Roman metres in the introductory essay.

'*Lacroix's Algebra.*'—This admirable work has been ably translated by Mr. Spiller; we hope that its success will encourage him to complete Lacroix's Mathematical course. The easy familiar style adopted by that truly great man, his explanation of every step in the process of reasoning, form a powerful contrast to the didactic authoritative tone of our elementary works on arithmetic and algebra. Will no one translate and adapt to the use of the English pupil, one of the many excellent French treatises on arithmetic?

'*Innes's Spelling Book—and Rhetorical Class Book.*'—These works would deserve a word of commendation, but that the compiler's vanity, more especially displayed in his *Class Book*, renders them ridiculous.



'Dyer's Geographical Chart.'—A laborious and useful compilation.

'Martin's French Verbs.'—A successful attempt to simplify one of the most difficult portions of French grammar.

'Le Bouquet Littéraire.'—This very pleasing selection of the beauties in modern French literature, was made by the late Professor Ventouillac, and seems not to have been designed for publication. It is, however, creditable to his taste, and well calculated to improve the taste of others.

'De Parquet's German Trésor.'—The French title of this work will, we fear, create a prejudice against its use; we should regret this, for it is a very good selection of exercises for German students.

'Rowbotham's Guide to Spanish and English Conversation.'—A good elementary book.

We have a heap of reprints and new editions before us: Vol. 44 of the *Standard Novels*, contains Morier's lively and amusing 'Hajji Baba,' which is well worthy of a place in the collection; Vol. 2. of Colburn's *Modern Novelists* completes the edition of 'Pelham.' We have also the pungent 'Fragments from the History of John Bull,' collected from *Blackwood's Magazine*—these, as being political, we shall pass without further notice; and a new edition of the first *Essays of Elia*, those incomparable golden specimens of good old English, which have been so much and so deservedly praised, and yet (to the shame of the many be it spoken) so little read. The authoress of 'Selwyn in search of a Daughter,' has also given us three volumes of her pleasant tales, collected from the periodicals, and commencing with the story by which her name is best known.—We should likewise notice the 24th volume of the *Mirror*, which is before us; an amusing and well-conducted miscellany, more scrupulous in acknowledging its obligations, than many of its more professing contemporaries.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

ONCE more we have fallen into the whirlpool of political excitement, and if we are to judge from the policy of our leading publishers, the public is hardly disposed to read anything but the newspapers. The season, however, in the fashionable acceptance of the word, is on the eve of commencing, and we must have abundance of novelty, ere long, in the shape of new publications, concerts, exhibitions, and the other *cetera*, which make London so delightful to those who love to see sights, and so distracting to those who must see them. It is hardly possible to speak of exhibitions, and not to advert to the *costume* system of advertisement, so amusingly prevalent just now: to us, indeed, the advertisement is often far more satisfactory than the show itself. We would rather, a thousand times, for instance, see the two men, in green moreen, parading Regent Street than the "Anatomical figure," and are half inclined to believe that the chamberlain to the dog 'Bashaw,' with his grey jerkin and scarlet rosettes, is fully as much of a sight as that wonderful piece of wax-work in marble! But, to return to graver things, though few books are appearing at the present moment, science and literature are, nevertheless, meeting with some honour among us.—The preferment of the son of Crabbe to the vicarage of Bredfield in Suffolk (in the gift of the Lord Chancellor), is an agreeable evidence that our poets are not utterly forgotten, even in these political days; while the recent and unanimous election of Mrs. Somerville and Miss Caroline Herschel, as Honorary Members of the Royal Astronomical Society, cannot but gratify all true lovers of science. Another of our female writers (so formidable as

a phalanx of talent just now)—we mean Mrs. Lee,—is about to collect her 'African Sketches,' which have appeared in periodicals, and publish them in a volume with copious notes. We are glad to hear it; the more she gives us of personal adventure in these additions, the more interesting and valuable will be her miscellany. Before we leave the subject of books, we must notice one announcement, which promises amusement—a single volume, in March, of 'Old Maids, their Varieties, Characters, and Conditions.'

Our auctioneers, too, are putting forth not a few temptations to the curiosity-mongers and *dilettanti*. In addition to the sale of Heber's library, we have advertisements of a valuable collection of coins, to be sold by Messrs. Southgate and Son—of the remaining portion of Stothard's pictures and sketches, which Messrs. Christie and Manson are about to dispose of; they also announce a collection of fine proofs and early impressions of Sir Robert Strange's works, which are to be brought to the hammer in March. Messrs. Foster, in Pall Mall, will sell, towards the close of the same month, two cartoons, by Raffaele—the subjects, 'St. Peter healing the Sick Man at the Beautiful Gate,' and 'Elymas the Sorcerer struck blind.'

We have seen a collection of upwards of 500 fac-simile autographs of the kings, queens, and worthies of Great Britain, from the fourteenth century to the present time, which has been skilfully lithographed by Mr. Netherclift. Additional interest has been given to this collection by occasional extracts from original letters.

We are sorry to have made a blunder, but (more especially as the fault is not our own) glad to contradict the notice of the death of Zingarelli, which appeared in our columns a few weeks ago. It appears, that while we were prophesying an immortality for this veteran composer, on the strength of his 'Laudate' and 'Ombra adorata,' he was busily occupied in composing a piece of music in honour of the King of Naples, which is to be performed in the course of April. The French papers committed the assassination: we only wished, as was becoming, to mourn at his funeral.—We looked in at Miss Pelzer's morning Concert on Tuesday, which was well attended—what, if we say, better than the performance deserved? Mori played a violin *pasticcio* in a more fragmentary and florid style than usual, and Mr. Roche sung an air by Bellini, with sweetness. Mr. Purday also acquitted himself well in Neukomm's 'Napoleon's Midnight Review.' With respect to the other pieces we heard—silence is sometimes criticism as well as consent.

We understand that Madame Vestris is in treaty with the proprietors of the Haymarket Theatre for a seven years' lease of that house, to commence, if we have been rightly informed, at Easter. Madame Vestris has yet another season to come of her agreement for the Olympic Theatre.

#### SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

##### SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Jan. 29.—W. R. Hamilton, Esq., V.P., in the chair. A copy of the second number of Mr. Collins's selection of early specimens of the Old English Drama was laid on the table of the Society, as a present from the learned editor. It is another *Miracle Play*, now first printed from a manuscript copy in the Cottonian collection, and is entitled 'The Marriage of the Virgin.'

The Secretary read a communication from Sir Thomas Phillips, Bart., referring to some Saxon charters, believed to be inedited, and part of a correspondence between Henry VIII. and Sir Thomas Wyatt, when the latter was the English Ambassador at the Imperial Court, concerning

the pending treaty for the marriage of his daughter Mary to the Emperor's son.

Feb. 5.—W. R. Hamilton, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Some ancient crockery and glass wares were exhibited to the Society, and some speculations upon them, by Mr. A. J. Kempe, were read by the Secretary. Mr. Kempe imagines that some fragments of glass were of a mirror broken over the mortal remains of its former owner, as his sword was broken over the body of a deceased warrior. The reading of the correspondence with Sir Thomas Wyatt, when ambassador to the Emperor, was continued.

Feb. 12.—Thomas Amyott, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair. Mr. Sydney Smirke, a Fellow of the Society, exhibited to the Society a drawing of the episcopal throne in the church of San Francesco, (St. Francis, the founder of the mendicant monastic order which bears his name,) at Assisi, in the Apennines, between Foligno and Perugia; and the Secretary read an interesting descriptive account of it, communicated by Mr. Smirke, with some speculations upon the date and authorship of the work.

Further extracts were read from the historical correspondence before referred to.

Feb. 19.—Thomas Amyott, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair. An episode in the history of Henry VIII.'s warlike expedition into France, including his feats before St. Omer's, "By the grace of God, and by the favour of St. George," from original papers in the possession of the Trevelyan family, was read by the Secretary. Sir Henry Ellis read also some historical letters communicated by the learned Vice President of the Society, Henry Hallam, Esq., of the time of James I. The first, of the only two read, was from the king himself, written during the sitting of his first parliament, with the Commons of which he does not appear to have been at all pleased. It is dated from his house, "The Wilderness," where he declares, before God, that he had rather stay while his soul and body remained together, than come in contact with such a pack of Puritans as the Commons' House consisted of.

##### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 17.—A note on the cultivation of the pine-apple at the Duke of Roxburgh's seat near Kelso, and an abstract of the Meteorological Journal of the Society for the year 1834, were the subjects of the communications read this day. From the observations registered, it appears that the temperature of the last season exceeded the usual mean by 3.08°, whilst the amount of rain was nearly four inches below the average,—half of the quantity in the entire year falling in the months of July and August. The heat on the 17th of the former month reached the 94th degree of Fahrenheit's scale in the shade, and the 130th in the sun's rays.

In the room we noticed some handsome varieties of *Amaryllis*, *Eukianthus*, and *Camellia*, *Garrya elliptica*, and varieties of *Betula* and *Acacia*.

B. G. King, Esq., William Staveley, Esq., and Mr. Charlwood, were elected Fellows of the Society.

##### ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Feb. 21.—The Right Honourable the Earl of Munster in the chair. It having been announced that Lieut. Burnes's diploma would be presented to him this day, there was a very large assembly of the members and their friends, so much so that it was with difficulty many could obtain standing room in the large hall of the Society. After the presentation of the diploma to Lieut. Burnes, the usual routine of business followed. Three gentlemen were admitted members. Several valuable presents were made, of which, and of the paper read on the occasion, an extract from Capt. Low's History of Tenasserim,

of which we shall give an account in our next number.

EARL MUNSTER then rose; and having called the attention of the meeting to the principal object of their assemblage, proceeded to address himself to Lieut. Burnes as follows:—

"Sir,—In consequence of the unavoidable absence of our President, whose more important, though I am sure I can vouch for his feeling them to be not less interesting duties, prevent his attendance, it falls to my lot, as a Vice President, in the name of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, to state to you the object of our having particularly requested your attendance here this day. I regret sincerely the absence of our President, because the gratifying pledge of the sentiments this Society entertain towards you, which it is their intention now to bestow upon you, would, I feel, have come in every way better from him; but should I fail in my duty, which is to express fully, and with propriety, the sentiments of the Society, it will not be so much their fault, or their want of conviction of your merits, as the fault of me, their organ.

"Allow me, Sir, in the first place, to congratulate you, in the name of the Society, on the happy completion of your successful enterprise; the personal risks and dangers of which have, in no degree, obscured its splendid results. Your journey through Central Asia, and the pursuits which you incorporated with it, must be considered by the Society as especially comprehended within the scope of those objects, for the attainment of which they are congregated, and for which also they received their charter. They have therefore come to the unanimous resolution of presenting you with a special mark of their high approbation; and I would here observe, that, however great the meed of applause may be, which you have received from other learned Societies, the value of whose honours I would by no means wish to depreciate; yet there is not any learned or scientific body within the realm which is so well able to appreciate your merits, and, consequently, so proper to pronounce upon them. It may be difficult, therefore, considering the number, as well as the value, of those encomiums, that the Societies, to which I have referred, have with so much justice bestowed upon you, to add to their applause. But, Sir, I must be allowed to say, that the very fact of so many, and such distinguished bodies having showered their praises and honours upon you, is of itself a sufficient proof of your deserts; and it evinces, very strongly, the value of that new information which you have brought us, and how wide and extensive is the field which you have explored. Whether it be those devoted to Geography or Geology, Antiquity, or general Literature; whether it be the politician, the soldier, or the merchant; whether it be the man of pure science, or the man of general research, all have alike admitted your high merits, and have anxiously hastened to do you justice. These various Societies have sifted the stores you have brought home; and the result has proved how much more gold than sand they contain. Each has said and done so much towards honouring you, that it would be difficult to find any other Society, except this, the Royal Asiatic Society, the approbation of which, could, in any degree, increase your gratification. But we, Sir, feel not only that we can, but that we may add to your praises, and to your gratification; for we differ from all other institutions in this respect, that we claim Asia, with its mythology, its history, its antiquities, arts and sciences, as the object of our particular researches. Thus I am happy that the Royal Asiatic Society, though certainly not amongst the least, appears to be the last to offer you the honours within its gift, claiming, as we do, the power and ability to criticise and judge of your merits in the aggregate. We now, by our act, affirm, that, whether the extent of your

travels, the interesting points they have illustrated, the good they are likely to produce, the additions they have brought to the stores of science in almost every branch; whether, I say, these things be considered singly or collectively, there can be no doubt that they place your enterprise at the very highest point of praise. To yourself, Sir, it must be highly gratifying to have re-opened to us a great river of antiquity, and a classical country, both of which, but most certainly the former, have been sealed to Europe for two thousand years. It must be an equal source of satisfaction to you to have penetrated to the great seat of learning in the East, the Om el Belad, the mother of cities, and to have joined her to the great family of mankind. But, Sir, all this has been repeated to you so often, even, I fear, *ad nauseam*, that I will not now detain you or this meeting, by repeating it. I will, therefore, sum up my detail of your exploits by assuring you, that the Royal Asiatic Society considers you to have performed for Central Asia what Bruce did for the Nile, and Denham and Clapperton for the Niger and Central Africa.

"Such are the results of your expedition; but whilst I thus refer to them, I must not conceal from you the high opinion which this Society entertains of your personal conduct, nor the fact that this public expression of their feeling is strongly connected with your diplomatic arrangements with the Ameets of Sindh, and bears as well on your enterprising character, as on your judgment under difficulties and dangers, and on your discretion when in communication with the natives. I may say, indeed, with reference to the last point, that there is no Society but that which now surrounds you, which could estimate the magnitude of those difficulties; for there is no other Society which possesses the means requisite to form a judgment on them. Nor can I refrain from commenting, in the highest terms, upon a circumstance which is alike honourable to yourself individually, and creditable to the character of your countrymen collectively, and which is likely to produce much good in our future intercourse with Central Asia, namely, your having avoided all deceit, and your having on all occasions frankly avowed to the chiefs your rank, station, and country. Entertaining these sentiments towards you, the Royal Asiatic Society have, with one voice, unanimously resolved to go out of its ordinary course of proceeding, and to confer upon you an honour, of which, I fear, the narrow limits to which further inquiry is confined, renders it unlikely that there should be such another claimant. It is an honour which places you amongst us in the same situation that you occupy towards Europe, that of being alone in your distinction. The diploma which I now have the honour to present to you, admits you, during your life, to all the privileges of a member of this Institution; and altogether exempts you from the payment of the usual fees and subscriptions. Allow me, Sir, to congratulate you upon becoming one of us; and permit me, at the same time, to mention incidentally, a circumstance which it will doubtless afford you much pleasure to learn, inasmuch as it proves that the result of your travels was amongst the desiderata of this Society at an early period of its formation. A proposition was brought forward at that period to have a medal struck, to be offered as an inducement to enterprising individuals to take the very same journey which you have now accomplished. This proposition was not carried into effect; but, had it been adopted, I should now have had the gratification of placing that medal in your hands. I mention this circumstance without hesitation; for, however strongly I may regret the inability of this Society thus to reward you, yet I have the strongest conviction, that to a mind like yours, the spirit in which the Society makes the donation will alone be looked at, apart from any

consideration of its value; and in this light I am certain you will regard the scroll of parchment with which I have presented you, to be of equal value with the Koh-e-Noor.†

"Having now done my public duty, you must allow me, Sir, to congratulate you individually, and to express the gratification I feel at making your personal acquaintance; and, in the name of this Society, I now wish you every success in that career in your profession which your talents and abilities will claim for you."

SIR ALEXANDER JOHNSTON.—"I really must be permitted to make a few observations with reference to the occasion which draws this meeting together. The services which have been rendered by the distinguished officer who now occupies our attention in a geographical, political, and moral point of view, are inestimable. By fixing with accuracy the position of Bokhara, of Balkh, and of the western range of the great Himalaya mountains, this gentleman has done more towards the construction of a map which may be relied on, of those countries, than has been achieved by any person, since the epoch of Alexander the Great. We now see formed, by his indefatigable and patient courage, an all but continuous link of communication between Western Asia and the Caspian Sea; we may shortly expect to find that the commerce which is carried on in the ports of that sea has reached the Indo-Chinese boundaries; and we may, at no very distant period, look for its extension to the whole of Northern India. The employment of the enormous resources at the command of Great Britain, which are now locked up in inactivity, will give fresh life to that spirit of commercial enterprise which is so eminently characteristic of our countrymen. We may also very reasonably expect that, together with the extension of commerce, the attendant blessings of civilization will be disseminated throughout the semi-barbarous states of Central Asia; and that, by means of the great moral power, the press—a power to which I confidently look as the ultimate means of civilizing the globe, and raising man in the scale of creation. That similar exertions to those of the enterprising traveller present might very soon be called for, was betokened by every appearance of the Oriental political horizon. The situation of Egypt; that of Turkey; the rise, within a comparatively recent period of an enormous and overgrown power in the North, which is now fast proceeding towards the North-western Persian provinces, all tend to create, not only a political, but a moral ferment in the East, which must end in the subversion of some states, and the erection of new ones. The contest will most probably be decided in those countries which have been recently traversed by our new associate; and the information which he has brought us respecting them is thus rendered invaluable. I entertain a strong hope that the government, both in Great Britain and India, will be impressed with the necessity of availing itself of Lieut. Burnes's distinguished talents. I confidently prophecy that, if their development be at all concomitant with the past, they will not fail to secure to him the transmission of his name, under the most favourable auspices, to posterity. I do, therefore, my Lord, most heartily congratulate you, and this honourable Society, upon the accession of a member so distinguished as Lieut. Burnes."

LIEUT. BURNES then rose and said.—"My Lord and Gentlemen,—I have felt myself placed in many trying situations since my return to this land, but I have been placed in none more so than the present. The honour which this Society has done me, and the kindness of expression towards me on the part of your Lordship, almost

† Literally the "Mountain of Light." It is the celebrated diamond of which Nadir Shah despoiled the Mogul Shah Mohammed. It now forms part of the Persian regalia.

unfit me for reply. But I trust I am able to appreciate justly the applause of so eminent a Society, conveyed to me as it has been by one so distinguished by his rank, but not more distinguished in that respect, than by his devotion to and zeal in the cause of Asiatic Literature and Science. I have the honour to see my name associated with many Societies for the prosecution of science and learning, and amongst them are three Asiatic Societies in the East; but this circumstance has by no means rendered me indifferent to the approbation of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland: on the contrary, I had looked forward to the evening of life, after my period of active service had passed away, to join it. Imagine, therefore, my joy at finding myself, by an act of peculiar favour, chosen its adopted son. It is an honour, to me, of great value; for here, in this place, I find myself at home amidst the productions of that country in which I have passed fourteen years of my life. Around me I see the monuments, the relics, the antiquities of India; and, what is still more pleasing to me, I see also many of those who have devoted their time, and their talents, to the illustration of these monuments. I feel myself again amongst those whose associations, and whose connexions have been for years past identified with mine. I cannot, however, attribute the honours, the favours, which have been showered upon me, to any merit which I possess. I am rather disposed to account for them by the novelty, and high classical interest of the countries which I have visited. I hope, however, that I have been at least instrumental in pointing out that there is a rich harvest for the future inquirer in Central Asia; and I shall be contented to be looked upon as a gleaner before the harvest is gathered; for I confidently trust that the journey I have performed will encourage future and more talented persons to travel there.

"In the presence of the Society, I have now the pleasure to pay a debt of gratitude which has long been due to it. When that distinguished and amiable man, the late lamented Sir John Malcolm, assumed the government of Bombay, he was charged by this Society with some communications to the Literary Society of Bombay: amongst them was a copy of the *desiderata* put forth by the Royal Asiatic Society. This paper, with a spirit finely characteristic of him, Sir John Malcolm had lithographed and extensively circulated at Bombay. A copy of it fell into my hands; and it was carried by me throughout my wanderings in Asia. Often when in the desert—often when in the city, far removed from civilization, have I referred to that paper with the utmost advantage. My inquiries have often been guided by it into channels whither neither education nor inclination would have led me; and thus, Gentlemen, by attending to your instructions and guidance, I have been enabled to fill up many a hiatus which would otherwise have remained void. It is, therefore, most gratifying to me, in the presence of this Society, to acknowledge my obligations to it; and I feel it to be my duty to offer, as a record to be placed among the archives of your Society, the identical paper which has been so long my companion, and so frequently my guide. I perhaps may venture, most respectfully, to recommend its yet more extensive circulation, because, as a *precis* of *desiderata*, I look upon it to be invaluable. I must now candidly confess, that I cannot, for an instant, allow myself to appropriate the honours which you have conferred upon me, to myself, individually. I am certain that their immediate effect will be of far higher utility than the mere gratification of the ambition or vanity of any individual. They will have their effect, hereafter, by leading my fellow-countrymen in the East on to further exertions, who, whilst they are advancing the important interests of this Society, will be stimulated by the reflection, that

the more correct and intimate their knowledge of Asia and its people is rendered, the better enabled will England become to govern her Asiatic possessions with credit to herself, and advantage to them; and the sooner would arrive that period at which the blessings of her civilization might be spread over them.

"I have now only, in conclusion, to reiterate to this assembly my earnest and grateful thanks for the distinguished honour conferred upon me. Your Lordship has alluded to the former intention of the Society to bestow a medal upon the individual who should first perform the journey from which I have returned. But I must be allowed to say, that I prize the honourable testimonial which I now hold in my hand, far beyond the most precious medal. I shall regard it as the Indians do their *muster*—as a spell to excite me to further exertions. And if my past efforts may be considered to have entitled me to the possession of a document of which I have so much reason to be proud, I can only say that it will act as a double stimulus in future efforts, in all of which I shall be happy to receive this Society's instructions.

"A few days, Gentlemen, and I shall be gone from among you; but that which has passed here this day, shall never be effaced from my memory whilst life endures, though I am now compelled to say, farewell." (Mr. Burnes then sat down, amidst loud applause, deeply affected.)

EARL MUNSTER rose again, and addressing the meeting, said—"I had not anticipated having again so soon to return my thanks to Lieut. Burnes; but, Sir, (addressing Lieut. Burnes,) I must say, that if you prize the diploma which you hold, you may rest assured that an almost equal value will be placed by the Society on the interesting paper which you have so kindly presented to us. Moreover, I am convinced that if the praises and rewards within the gift of this Society shall call into life a further spirit of inquiry, the interesting document which has so long accompanied you, will, when placed among the relics to which you have alluded, be still more likely than ever to create a desire for enterprise and research; and I, therefore, shall move that it be placed, with care and veneration, amongst the archives of this Society."

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The proceedings of this Society, since our last notice, have been interesting only to the medical world, with the exception of a description of the Baths of Pfeffers, in Germany, read by Dr. Johnson.

It appears, that these baths are little known, and still less frequented by our countrymen, although the waters possess considerable medicinal virtues, and their situation is highly romantic. The description given by the author of his visit was very interesting, but our limits will scarcely permit us to do more than mention in his own words, "that of all the strange places into which men have penetrated, in search of treasure or health, there is probably not one on this earth, or under it, more wonderful." He gives its locality as a few miles distant from the Splügen Road, in the route from Wallenstadt to Coire.

In the approach to the baths, the most wild and picturesque scenery meets the eye, consisting of tremendous precipices, deep ravines, roaring cascades, and a matchless prospect, extending over the whole of the Grison Alps and valleys, to the Lake of Constance.

The author further described the locale of an immense Hospital for Invalids, to be at the very bottom of a frightful ravine, always chafed by the roaring torrents of the Tamina. The baths are scooped out of the rocks, forming part of its foundation, and the entrance to them consists of a fragile scaffold of only two planks in breadth, suspended, as it were, in the air, across a ravine fifty feet above the torrent underneath, and three

or four hundred feet beneath the crevice admitting light and air; this same foot-path extending nearly half a mile into the interior of the mountain, where the source of the *Thermæ* is seen. The baths are arched with stone, and so constructed, as to admit but little light, and still less air. The waters are continually flowing through the baths, so that the temperature is uniform, and the water pure; the air is as hot as the *Thermæ*, inasmuch as the very walls are warm, in consequence of the dense vapour constantly pervading the space unoccupied by water. In these situations, the Doctor mentioned, invalids often remain, or rather lie, *daily*, from two to six, eight, ten, and sometimes sixteen hours! thus being in a perfect state of maceration.

The disorders for which these baths are most celebrated on the continent, are rheumatism, nervous pains, diseases of the glands, and cutaneous affections. The author of the paper thinks dyspeptic, nervous, and hypochondriacal patients would derive great advantage from their use, especially preceded by the usual excitement attending the route from this country. The waters have neither taste, smell, nor colour, and are described to possess only simple saline substances, common to other mineral springs. It is stated, they will keep for ten years without losing their transparency, or depositing a sediment.

A discussion ensued, on the advantages of bathing in rheumatism, and other diseases, which was only interesting to professional men.

The paper appeared to give great satisfaction to a full attendance of the members.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Entomological Society	Eight, P.M.
	Linnæan Society	Eight, P.M.
TUES.	Horticultural Society	One, P.M.
	Institution of Civil Engineers	Eight, P.M.
WED.	Society of Arts	p. 7, P.M.
	Royal Society	p. 8, P.M.
THUR.	Society of Antiquaries	Eight, P.M.
	Zoological Society	Three, P.M.
FRID.	Royal Institution	p. 8, P.M.
SAT.	Royal Asiatic Society	Two, P.M.

#### MUSIC

##### PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS.

THE commencement of the season has been a brilliant one, as far as regards this establishment, a new work having been brought forward at its first Concert on Monday evening, which is entitled to the first rank in compositions of the highest order. Of course we mean Spohr's characteristic Symphony, and of this we may say in *limine*, that a second hearing fully justified our favourable opinion, as expressed upon its trial. We were more excited, if possible, than before, and more alive to the high poetical feeling, and grand bold effects, which are to be found in every part of the composition. A *programme*, giving the story of a symphony, is, if we mistake not, rather a new feature in a concert bill; but, as all the great writers (especially those of later days—as Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Weber) *must*, and *did*, work from distinct imaginations, and not vague sensations, when they have wished their writings to bear a decided and impressive character, we see not why those of a more sluggish fancy should not be allowed the benefit of such an assistance as the composer's exposition of his own intentions, or some mention of the story or scene which inspired him. Spohr's new symphony is based upon an 'Ode to Music,' by Pfeiffer, the praise of which art affords occasion for as many contrasts and varied scenes as the casting of the bell suggested to Schiller. A short opening *largo*, full of suspense and mystery, portrays in sound (paradoxical as it may be thought) "the deep silence of Nature before Creation." Gradually, however, we hear a certain progressive movement in this chaos, and *Life awakens*—with it the voice of Nature and



the elements; this is the subject of the *allegro*—the theme of which has all the sweetness of a stray air from Paradise, though perhaps more in the composer's usual manner than other parts of the work (or *poem*), which we are examining. Nothing can be more felicitous or original than the manner in which, without studied eccentricity, or servile imitation, Spohr has suggested the idea of all the first sounds of Creation;—birds trying their newly-found notes—fierce sudden winds, which break out ever and anon—and a rich smooth under-current of the sound of murmuring waters, and the waving of heavy foliage. (Let our soberer readers bear in mind, that we are endeavouring to criticise in the spirit of the composer, and that we speak of effects, rather than the scientific arts by which they are produced). The second movement is devoted to the cradle-song, the dance, and the serenade; nothing can be more lulling and simple than the first—nothing more exciting and spontaneous than the second (it is a tune which might have crept out from Oberon's horn)—and the third *molto* is full of the tenderness of the lover "sighing like a furnace." Spohr has, by very ingenious contrivance, made these three themes cross and intermingle; and, as each has a different *tempo*, and a different emphasis, this movement requires to be *felt*, as well as played by the orchestra, or it would want clearness to the hearer; but the band, under able conduct, performed it with admirable precision, and without constraint or stiffness, and the effect was natural and delightful. We observed, however, some of the elder of the audience listening to it with a sort of melancholy surprise, as if to say, "Is music come to this?" Nothing was ever imagined grander than the contrast afforded by the opening of the next movement, which is warlike, and shows us the march of countless hosts; the music has a dignified magnificence, which raises it far above the smart common-place of a *procession tune*, and unconsciously fills the mind with pictures of the glories of chivalry. The middle part of this movement is wrought with great skill, and after a return of the conquerors (a repetition of the march), there breaks out a grave choral strain of thanksgiving, of a simplicity positively gigantic. Nothing can be plainer than the writing here, and its effect is, in proportion, successful. The close of this movement will always be remembered by us as one of the most magnificent things in music. The *finale* is hardly less striking; it is a 'Funeral Dirge, and Consolation in Grief': the melody of the first, simple and ancient as one of the old funeral psalm tunes (to us always affecting), is broken by short, wailing phrases from the wind instruments, and is full of the sorrow which attends on death, and of the solemn darkness of the grave; it is beautifully relieved by a soothing strain, so sweet and holy, that one might almost fancy some echoes of heaven's music were allowed to reach the mourners to lighten their affliction. With this the symphony concludes, and we cannot leave it, without regretting that the limited powers of language forbid our doing full justice to its beauty and variety, and without expressing our extreme satisfaction at the manner in which its difficulties were overcome, and its meaning conveyed to the audience by the orchestra.

We must be brief with the rest of the music performed on this occasion. Madame Stockhausen was singing with her usual finish and sweetness. We trust that the rumour, of her leaving the profession at the close of the season, is a false one; she would be a serious loss to our orchestras. Of Braham, we can say nothing that would be agreeable,—nor did Mr. Horsley's Motett strike us as happy, or in any respect original. Mr. Blagrove made his first appearance in public since his return from Germany, and performed a Concerto, by Molique, with great finish of execution and sweetness of tone;

but we must hear him again before we can report upon him as we could wish. Mr. J. Cramer's pianoforte Concerto (the finale, an air with variations, by Mozart,) was perfect in his own style. The other instrumental pieces performed were—Mozart's Sinfonia, No. 7; Mendelssohn's dreamy and *Ossianic* Overture to the 'Isles of Fingal'; and Beethoven's well-tried and always delightful 'Egmont.' Sir George Smart conducted the performance.

#### THEATRICALS

##### THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

This Evening, THE WEDDING GOWN; and KING ARTHUR. Monday, KENILWORTH; and KING ARTHUR. Tuesday, THE HAZARD OF THE DIE; TOM O'SHANTER; and KING ARTHUR. Wednesday, No performance.

##### THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.

This Evening, Auber's Historical Opera of LESTOCQ; or, the Fête of the Hermitage; and PERFECTION. Monday, LESTOCQ; and THE BLIND BOY. Tuesday, LESTOCQ; and other Entertainments. Wednesday, No performance. Thursday, LESTOCQ; and THE MILLER AND HIS MEN.

##### COVENT GARDEN.

THE new grand opera, called, 'Lestocq, or, the Fête of the Hermitage,' does not seem likely to answer the ends of the management so well as it was hoped that it would. Nor can this be much wondered at: the scenery is extremely good, it is true, and the dresses are magnificent; but, in every other respect, it is far inferior to 'Gustavus,' which opera is so fresh in the recollection of play-goers, that it is as much out of the question not to institute a comparison, as for that comparison not to turn to the disadvantage of 'The Doctor,' as 'Lestocq' is frequently called. The music is clever to a certain extent, but there is nothing in the choruses which approaches the excitement contained in those of 'Gustavus,' and the story falls flat, and is without interest, from a cause which ought not to have escaped so experienced a hand as that of Monsieur Scribe. It is a story of a conspiracy carried on by one princess, who is seen, against another who is not seen. There is a capital fight at the end, but it is a bad omen for an author to make his own piece end in smoke. Upon the whole, we fear that the Fête of the Hermitage will experience the fate of the other Hermitage imported from abroad, and not keep long in this climate.

##### OLYMPIC.

Mr. Jerrold's piece, called 'Hearts and Diamonds,' was produced here on Monday, and well received, which it deserved to be, although we cannot give it so much praise as we had last week the pleasure of offering to his new dramas at Drury Lane and at Mrs. Nisbett's theatre. It was dressed and put on the stage with a drawing-room air, which is only to be met with at this house, but the plot has not interest enough in proportion to its intricacy, and the consequence was, that the audience, although pleased, was not excited. The best scene is a reading of a will. It was, upon the whole, fairly acted, but Mr. Liston was pre-eminent: his acting might serve as a useful lesson to those silly people, who imagine, or fancy they imagine, or dream that they fancy they imagine, that this admirable artist is a *farceur*, and not a comedian.

#### MISCELLANEA

London University.—The annual general meeting of the proprietors took place on Wednesday. The REPORT expressed satisfaction at the prospects of the Institution. The number of the students in the faculty of the Arts and Law was last year 122, this year 137; students in Medicine last year, 347, this 371. Pupils in the junior school 284, and this year 303. The total amount of receipts last year 9890*l.* 3*s.*, and this year 9971*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* None can rejoice more than we do at the improved prospects of the

Institution as announced in the Report; for we confess we see no great change ourselves, considering that the extraordinary expenses of the year amounted to 1218*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*! and certainly the prospects of the proprietors have not improved, seeing that Mr. Tooke, who has been, from first to last, a member of the council, informed them that their "prospects were desperate," and as their interest in the Institution was merely nominal, he proposed that they should "relinquish this nominal interest" altogether. This monstrous proposition was indignantly rejected by Col. Leicester Stanhope and others, and withdrawn—but the mere fact of such a proposition having been brought forward, is, in itself, sufficiently important to justify us in again adverting to this subject when we may chance to have a little more room and leisure.

Supplies of Water for the Metropolis. (From a correspondent.)—This important subject, after lying dormant for some time, has again become an object of public attention. Various plans have been suggested, the whole of which, however, are founded upon a scale so vast, as, in all probability, to deter the public or the government from plunging into the expense. Yet, if we would but avail ourselves of the new light which geology has thrown upon the subject, a full and cheap supply might easily be obtained. The strata upon which London and the surrounding district stand, are now perfectly well known, and though the depth at which water may be obtained is certainly great, yet the supply is superabundant and sure, and also of the very finest quality in the world. An instance of the certainty which now prevails upon the subject, may be mentioned in the success of the large well, which has recently been sunk at Hampstead, by the water company of that place. Owing to the increased dryness of our summers, the ponds of the company have been for the last three years very insufficiently supplied, and thence resort has been had to a well, and steam power, for increasing the supply. This well is 321 feet in depth. After passing through the usual stratum of London clay, which was found to be a depth of about 200 feet, other strata (containing curious remains, see *Athenæum*, No. 363,) were passed through, and at length a supply of water has been found, to an extent which leads to the belief, that something like a vast subterranean lake of fresh water must exist under the London district. The steam-engine has for the last several weeks been in operation by night and day, pumping water into the ponds at the rate of 100 gallons per minute, and yet not the slightest impression has been made upon the depth in the well. But for this fortunate circumstance, the usual supply of water to Kentish Town and the neighbourhood would have been totally cut off, and recourse would necessarily have been had to the New River Company, at an expense, for pipes and operations, of about 50,000*l.*; but owing to the full supply from their well, the Hampstead Company now furnish a much purer water than before.—Following this example, the different parishes and districts of London should proceed to sink wells and reservoirs for a supply of water, not brought through a ditch twenty miles long, with all the accessories of filth collected on its way, and muddiness in rainy seasons, but pure, cheap, and existing directly under foot. It is probable that by means of wells and steam-engines, not only would the purest of water be supplied, but at one-tenth part of the price now paid to a company, which must procure it at a distance of so many miles. Already, indeed, the principal brewers and manufacturers are supplied with water from their own wells, to a saving of some hundreds per annum, in more instances than one, which are well known. Let the parishioners of London and Southwark then look no longer to Parliamentary Committees, which only end

in an expense of thousands of pounds for plans, which are to pass through miles of country, and be attended with millions of expense; but at once set their own shoulders to the work, which will not fail to conduct them at once to the waters under the earth.

H. F.

**Steam-Boats.**—We announced some time since (No. 375) that a steam-boat was building in France which was to float on iron cylinders, with a steam-engine in the middle. According to the *Morning Herald*, the first experiment took place on the Loire at Nantes a few days ago.—“The general appearance of this kind of vessel resembles that of the floating baths of M. Vigier, on the Seine. The entire length of each pair of cones, which are united at the base, is 166 feet, from one end to the other. The vessel performed the distance, from Nantes to Mauves, in an hour and a half, and returned in an hour and a quarter; as the distance between the two places is 16,800 metres, the rate of sailing was about three leagues against the stream, and upwards of three with it. No accident occurred. The tremendous motion is but slightly felt, and the wheel acting only between the two floating bodies, which support the deck, no external action is apparent, and thus the banks of canals are free from injury. This construction, which is entirely new in Europe, does great honour to M. Thomson. The machine of the new vessel was made at Nantes.”

#### New Discovery for the preparation of Hemp.

A Yorkshire paper mentions the invention of a machine, by means of which the glutinous matter is very easily extracted from hemp, and it is reduced to so fine a fibre that it may be used for the same purposes as flax. The operation is performed by means of two plates regulated by springs. The hemp passes between these plates, the friction from which detaches the glutinous matter from it. If this machine be found sufficient, it will be a great blessing to all neighbourhoods where hemp is grown, for the soaking and preparing it creates an intolerable nuisance, for the stench proceeding from it in that state is seemingly enough to produce a plague.

#### NOVELTIES IN LITERATURE AND ART.

IN THE PRESS.

The Memoirs and Correspondence of Robert Lord Clive, collected from the Family Papers at Wolcot, and other sources, by Sir John Malcolm.—Practical Observations on the Physiology and Diseases of the Teeth, by John Mallan.

**Just published.**—The Mardens, and the Daventrys, by Miss Fardoe, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d.—Beattie's Switzerland, Vol. 1. 4to. 20s.—Cruikshank's Sketch Book, Vol. 1. 15s. plain, 31s. coloured; ditto Part VII. 2d. plain, 3s. 6d. coloured.—Merewether and Stephens's History of Boroughs and Municipal Corporations, 3 vols. royal 8vo. 41. 14s. 6d.—Caroline Lismore; or, the Errors of Fashion, 2d. edit. 18mo. 2s. 6d.—Ellen; or, the Young Godmother, 4th edit. 18mo. 2s. 6d.—Mitford's Tales for Young People, 3 vols. 18mo. 7s. 6d.—Mitford's Stories for Little Boys, 3 vols. 18mo. 7s. 6d.—Ezechiel Septimus contra Tobias, with Notes, by John Griffiths, M.A. 8vo. 5s.—A Collection of Examples on the Integral Calculus, 8vo. 5s. 6d.—Stonehouse's Every Man's Assistant, and Sick Man's Friend, new edit. 12mo. 4s. 6d.—The Toyshop; or, Sentimental Preceptor, 18mo. 2s. 6d.—Girdlestone's Commentary on the New Testament, Part IV. 8vo. 9s.; ditto II. 8vo. 18s.—A Second Week of Family Prayers, by A. Cooper, M.A. 18mo. 2s.—St. Leon; a Drama, in Three Acts, 8vo. 5s.—The French Language its own Teacher, by René Aliva, Part I. 12mo. 5s.—Memoirs of Mirabeau, by himself, 2 vols. 8vo. 21s.—Hughes's History of England, Vol. XIV. (first vol. of the continuation.) 8vo. 12s.—The Parliamentary Indicator, 32mo. 2s.—Rickman's Gothic Architecture, 4th edit. 8vo. 21s.—Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia, Vol. LXIV. (Dunham's Germany, Vol. II.) 8vo. 6s.—The Natural Son, by the German, by Lord Albert Conyngham, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d.—Lectures on the Means of Promoting and Preserving Health, by T. Hodgkin, M.D. 18mo. 4s.—Inclination and Duty at Variance, by the Author of 'The Military Blacksmith,' 18mo. 1s. 6d.—Souter's Second School Reader, a Geographical Class Book, by G.A. Hansard, 12mo. 4s. 6d.—Family Library, Vol. L. (British India, Vol. IV.) 18mo. 5s.—Le Veritable Ami des Enfants, par César Malan, D.D. 2 vols. 12mo. 10s.—Bates on the Doctrine of Friends, 12mo. 2s.

**Erratum.**—In the last number (American Literature), page 148, line 32, for “has been,” read was.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—GEOLOGY.

This Course will consist of about THIRTY LECTURES, and will commence on THURSDAY, the 5th March, at 6 o'clock, p.m. The Lectures will be continued every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The Course will consist of Three Parts, comprehending the following Subjects:—  
First Part.—Mr. Webster, On the Composition of Minerals, and on the Nature, Formation, and Superposition of Rocks.  
Second Part.—By Dr. Grant, On Fossil Zoology.  
Third Part.—By Dr. Lindley, On Fossil Botany. Fee, 2s. 3s. Council Room, 25th Feb. 1835. THOMAS COATES, Secretary.

## A COURSE OF TWELVE LECTURES ON

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The Lectures will commence on Tuesday, the 3rd day of March, 1835, at Eight o'clock in the evening, precisely, and be continued on each succeeding Thursday and Tuesday at the same hour.

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MR. SCHMIDT has to announce that he will commence a New Course of TEN LECTURES on GERMAN LITERATURE, at his Residence, No. 11, RATHBONE PLACE, on MONDAY, March 9, and following Mondays, at half-past 8 o'clock.

A CONVERSAZIONE (in the German Language) is held every Evening of Lecture, from half-past 7 to half-past 8 o'clock, at which Mr. Schmidt presides.

A Synopsis of the Lectures may be had on application to Mr. Schmidt, as above; or to Messrs. Vesel and Co., 6, Friar-street; and Messrs. Richter and Co., 2, New-square. Fee, One Guinea the Course.

## A CONCERT will be given on FRIDAY

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